

# Imperfect-Information Games for System Design

Dietmar Berwanger<sup>1</sup>   Laurent Doyen<sup>2</sup>

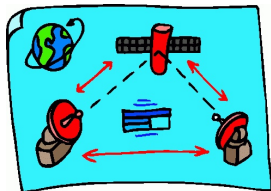
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<sup>2</sup>Université Libre de Bruxelles

PSY Grenoble, June 2009

# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell

Systems ► Models



# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell

## Systems ► Models

security, dependability

concurrency, real-time

usability, . . .

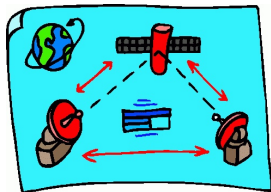
non-terminating dynamics

modularity & interaction

# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell

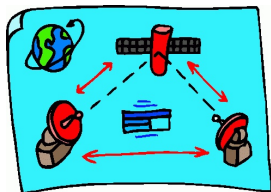
Systems ► Models

Specifications ► Logics



# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell

Systems ► Models



Specifications ► Logics

avoid failure  $AG\neg$

ensure progress  $AGEF\neg\psi$

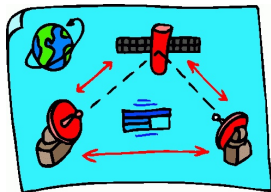
assume – guarantee  $\parallel \psi$

compositionality

interactive analysis

# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell

Systems ► Models



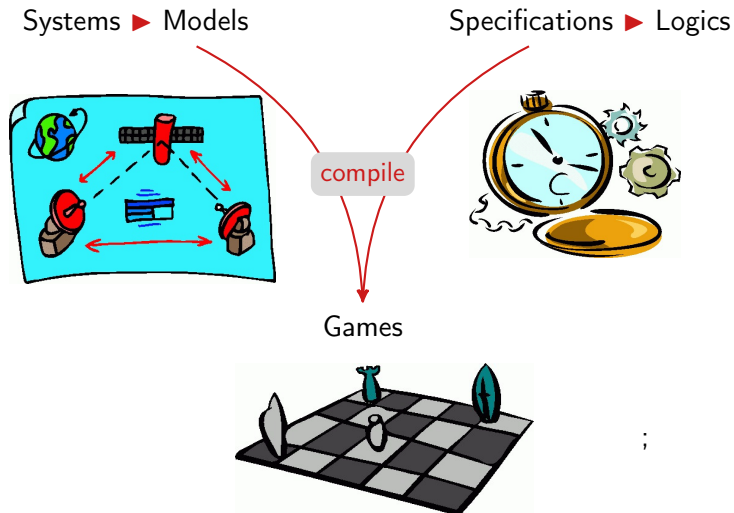
Specifications ► Logics



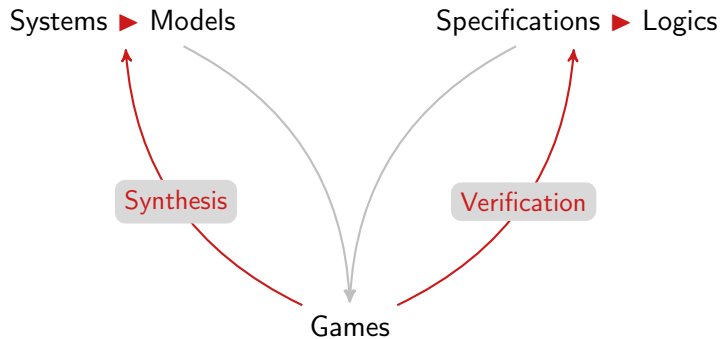
Games

- uniform framework
- modular and interactive

# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell



# Games for Verification and Synthesis – in a Nutshell



;



Why imperfect  
information ?

# Example

```
void main () {
    int got_lock = 0;
    do {
1:         if (*) {
2:             lock ();
3:             got_lock++;
            }
4:         if (got_lock != 0) {
5:             unlock ();
            }
6:         got_lock--;
    } while (*);
}
```

```
void lock () {
    assert(L == 0);
    L = 1;
}
```

```
void unlock () {
    assert(L == 1);
    L = 0;
}
```

# Example

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void main () {  
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5:            unlock ();  
            }  
6:        got_lock--;  
    } while (*);  
}
```

Wrong!

```
void lock () {  
    assert(L == 0);  
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}
```

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void unlock () {  
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# Example

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void main () {
    int got_lock = 0;
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1:         if (*) {
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           }
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5:             unlock ();
           }
6:         s0 | s1 | inc | dec;
    } while (*);
}
```

s0 ≡ got\_lock = 0  
s1 ≡ got\_lock = 1  
inc ≡ got\_lock++  
dec ≡ got\_lock--

```
void lock () {
    assert(L == 0);
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void unlock () {
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  }
```

Repair/synthesis as a game:

- System vs. Environment
- Turn-based game graph
- $\omega$ -regular objective

```
void lock () {
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```

```
void unlock () {
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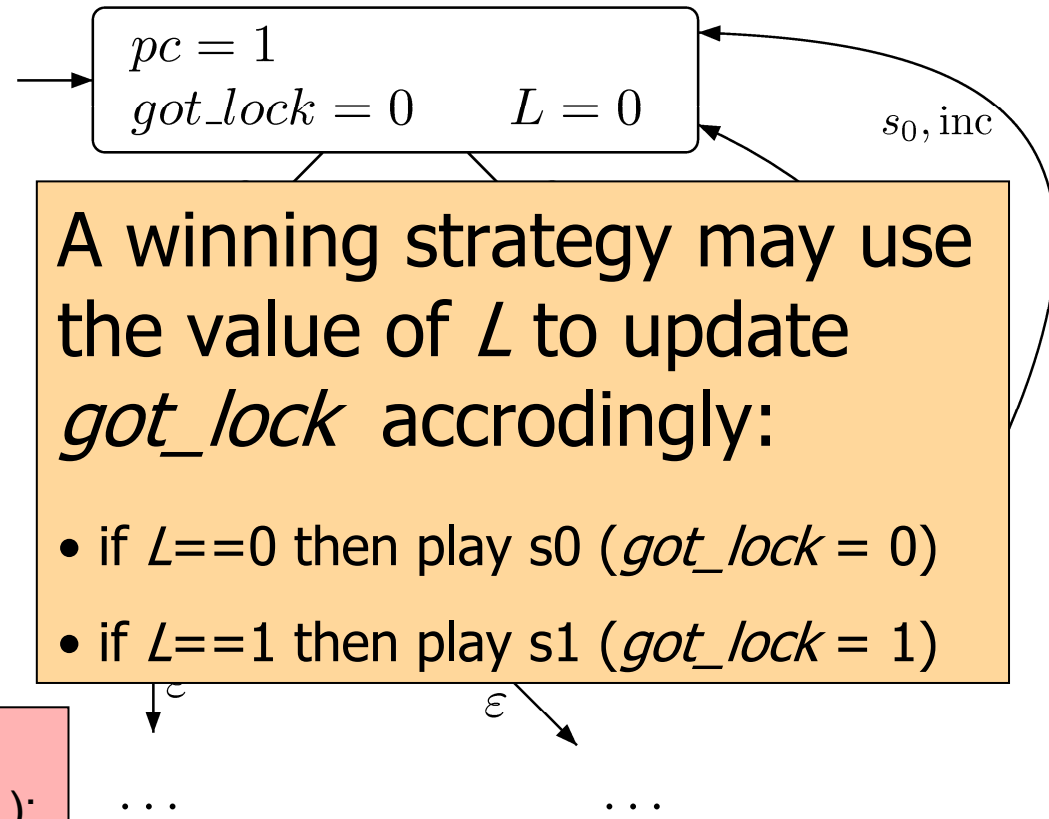


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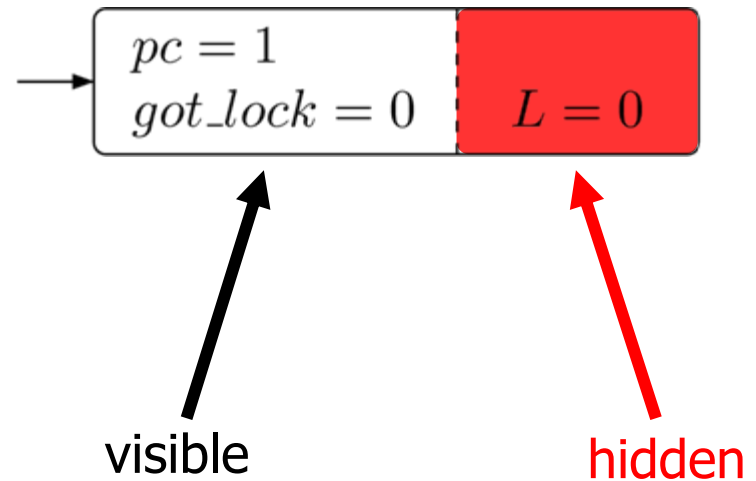
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```
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```

```
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}
```

Repair/synthesis as a game of **imperfect information**:



States that differ only by the value of  $L$  have the same observation

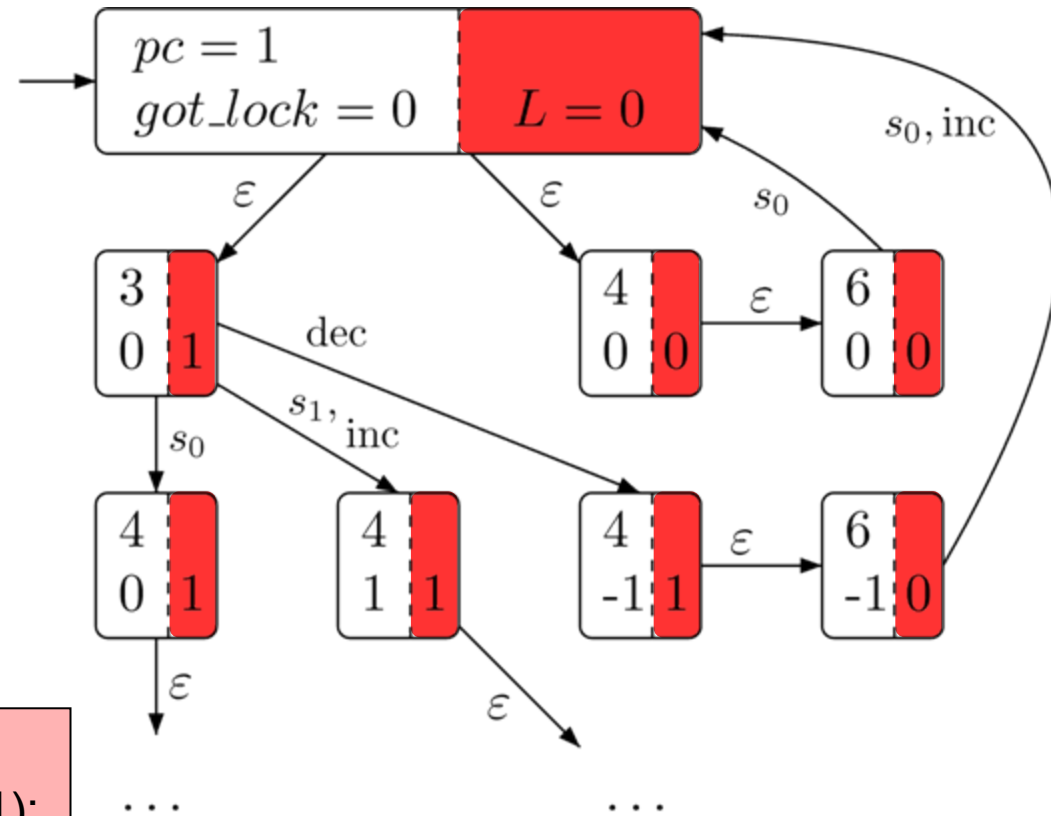


# Example

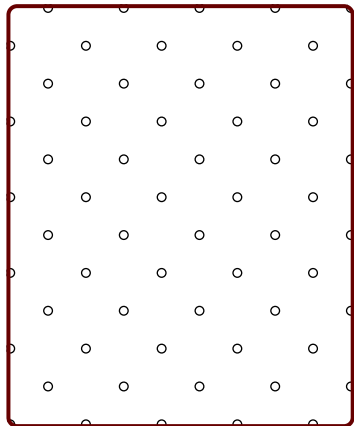
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7:        }  
8:        s0 | s1 | inc | dec;  
9:    } while (*);  
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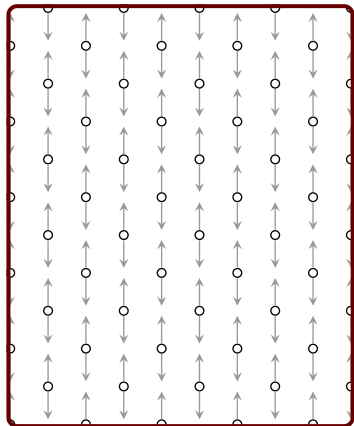


# Transition structure with imperfect information



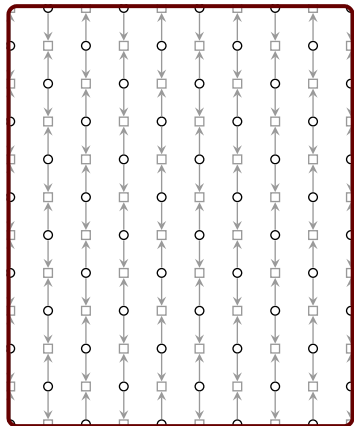
● States

# Transition structure with imperfect information



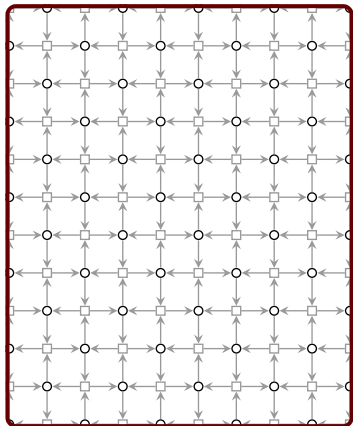
- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$

# Transition structure with imperfect information



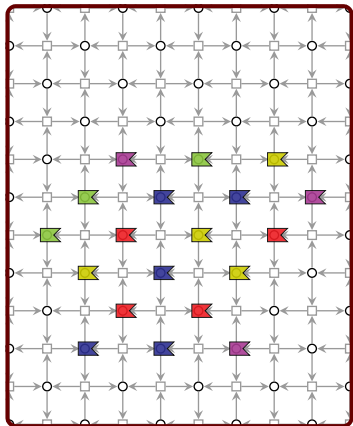
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# Transition structure with imperfect information



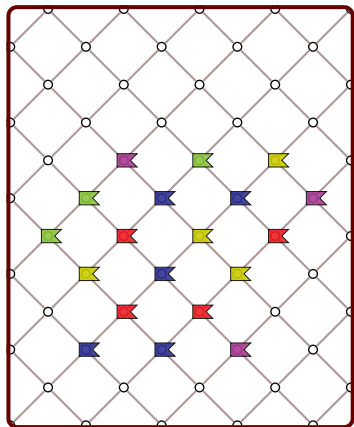
- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions


# Transition structure with imperfect information



- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations: 

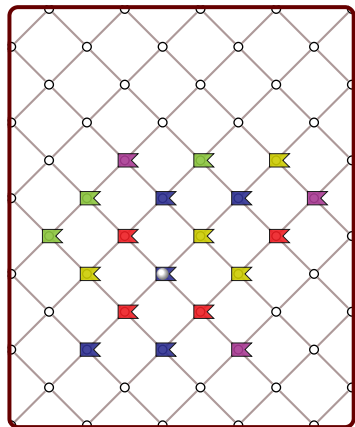
# Transition structure with imperfect information



- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations: 

Play:

# Transition structure with imperfect information

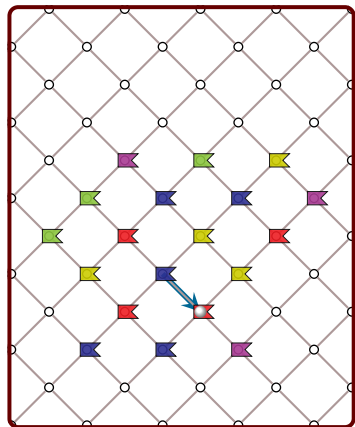



- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations:

Play:



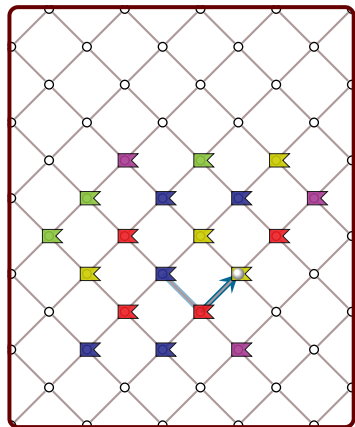
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- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations: 

Play: 

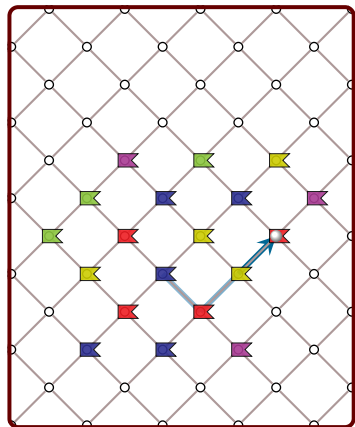
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- States
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Play:

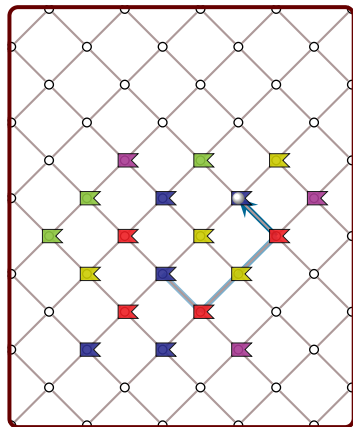
# Transition structure with imperfect information




- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations:

Play:

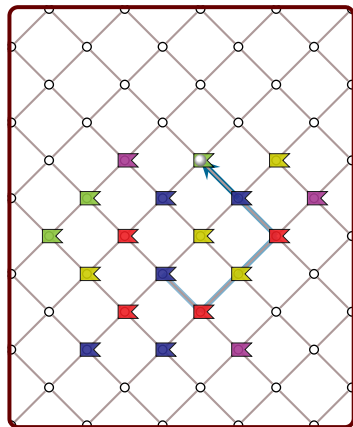
# Transition structure with imperfect information



- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations: 

Play:   $\downarrow$   $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   $\downarrow$   $\uparrow$   $\downarrow$

# Transition structure with imperfect information

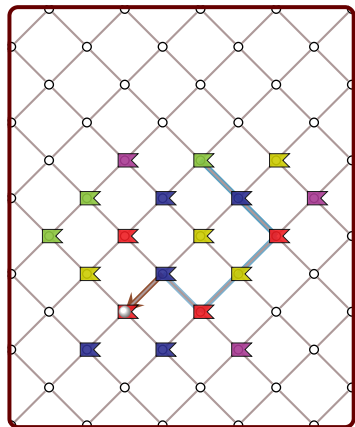


- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations:

Play:



# Transition structure with imperfect information



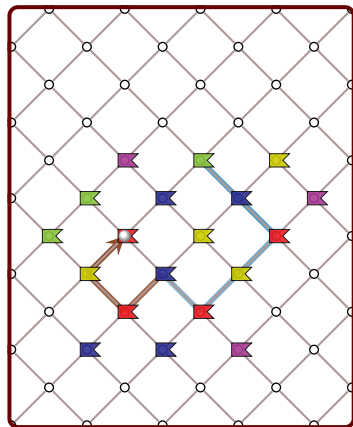
- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations:






Play: ...





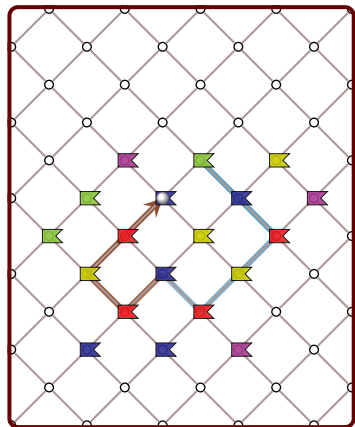
# Transition structure with imperfect information








- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
- Player 2 – observations:     

Play:   $\downarrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$   ...

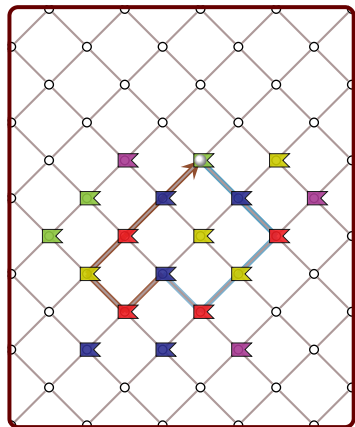
# Transition structure with imperfect information








- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
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Play:   $\downarrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$   ...

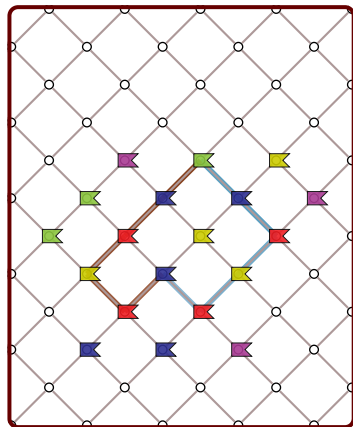
# Transition structure with imperfect information








- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
- Transitions
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Play:   $\downarrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$   ...

# Transition structure with imperfect information



- States
- Player 1 – actions:  $\uparrow, \downarrow$
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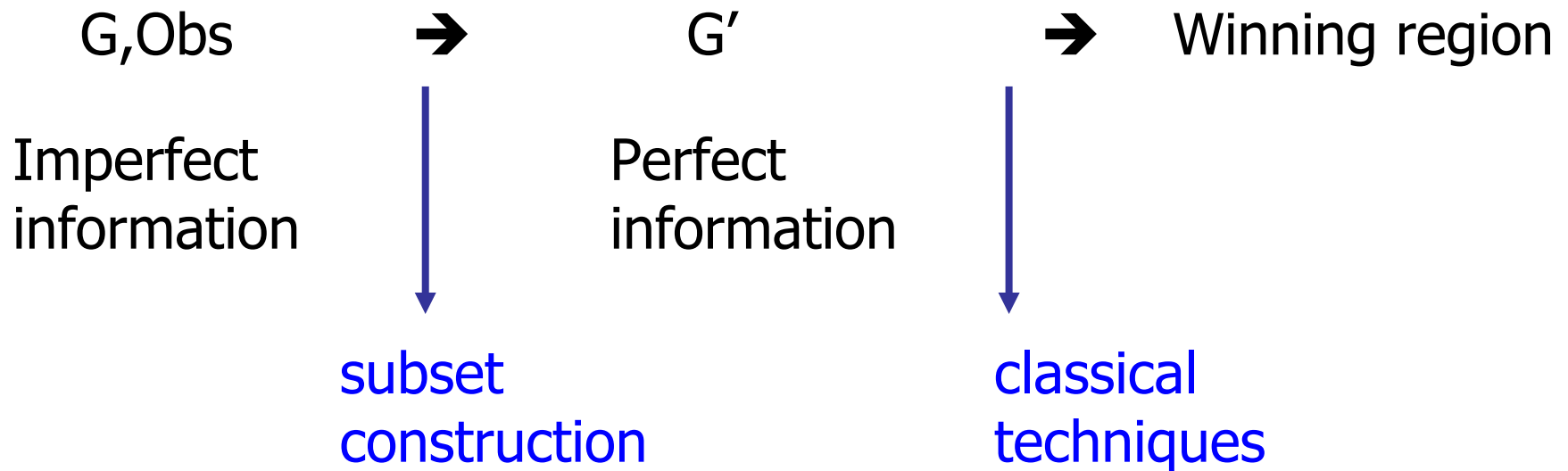
Play:   $\downarrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$    $\uparrow$   ...

# Algorithms

# Imperfect information

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Games of imperfect information can be solved by a reduction to games of perfect information.



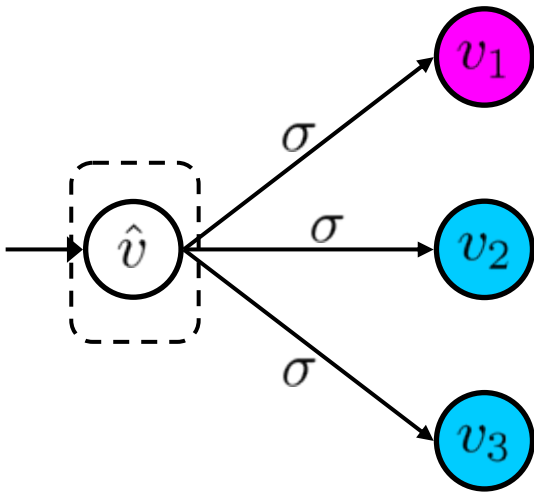
# Subset construction

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After a finite prefix of a play, Player 1 has a partial knowledge of the current state of the game: **a set of states**, called a **cell**.

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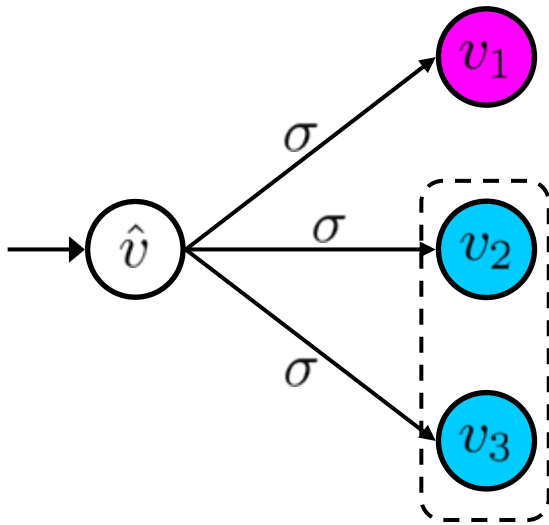


Initial knowledge: cell  $\{\hat{v}\}$



# Subset construction

After a finite prefix of a play, Player 1 has a partial knowledge of the current state of the game: a **set of states**, called a **cell**.



Initial knowledge: cell  $\{\hat{v}\}$

Player 1 plays  $\sigma$ ,

Player 2 chooses  $v_2$ .

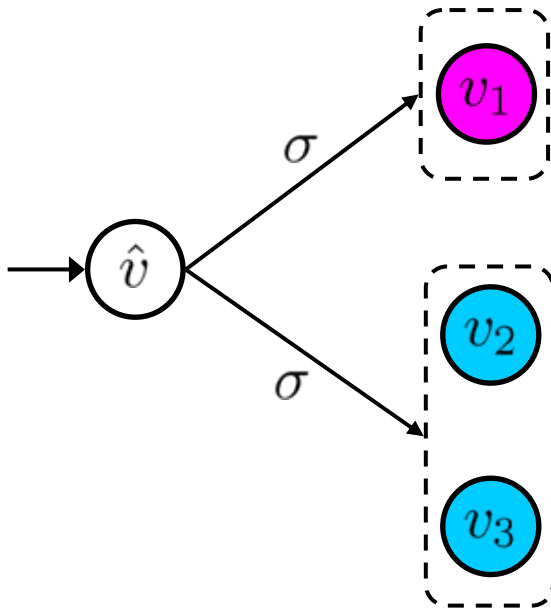
Current knowledge: cell  $\{v_2, v_3\}$



$\text{Post}_\sigma(\{\hat{v}\}) \cap o_2$

# Subset construction

After a finite prefix of a play, Player 1 has a partial knowledge of the current state of the game: a **set of states**, called a **cell**.



Subset construction [Reif84]:

- keeps track of the knowledge
- yields equivalent game of perfect information with macro-states (=cell)

# Classical solution

---

Powerset construction [Reif84]:

- keeps track of the knowledge of System
- yields equivalent game of perfect information

Memoryless strategies (in perfect-information)  
translate to **finite-memory strategies**

(memory automaton tracks set of possible positions)

# Complexity

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- Problem is **EXPTIME**-complete  
(even for safety and reachability)
- **Exponential memory** might be needed

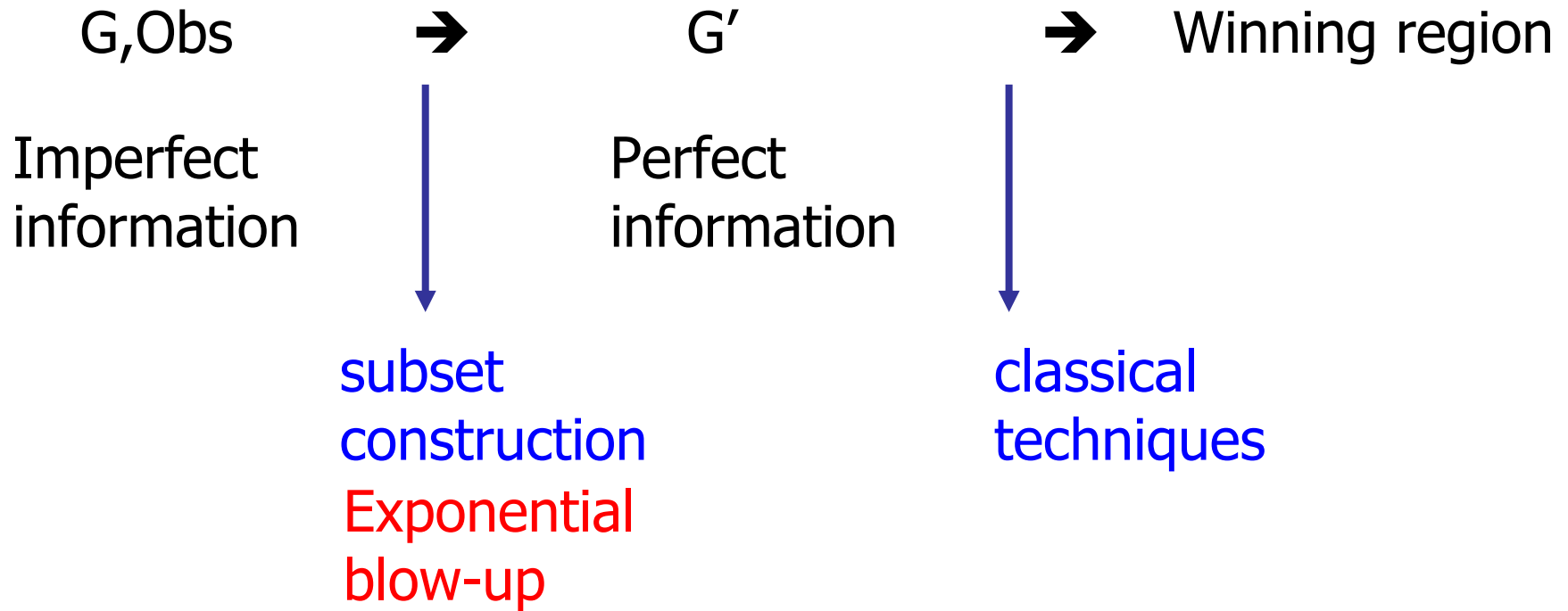
The powerset solution [Reif84]

- is an exponential construction
- is not on-the-fly
- is independent of the objective

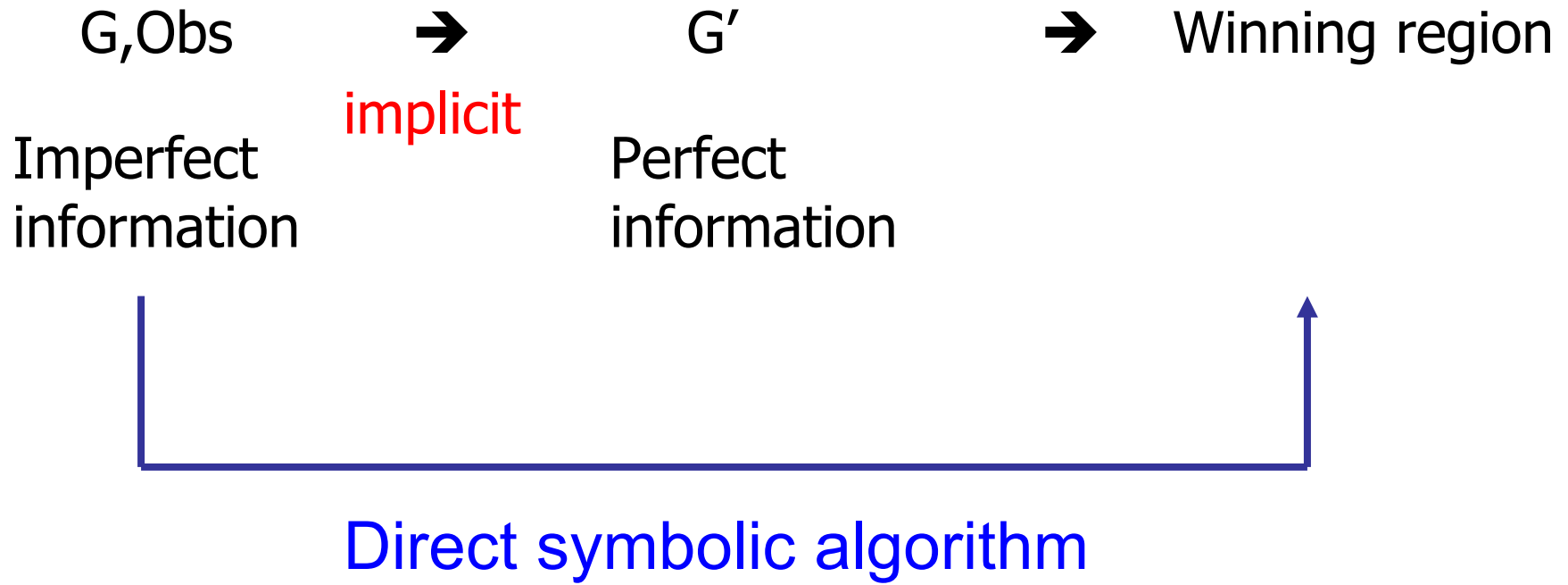
Can we do better ?

# Imperfect information

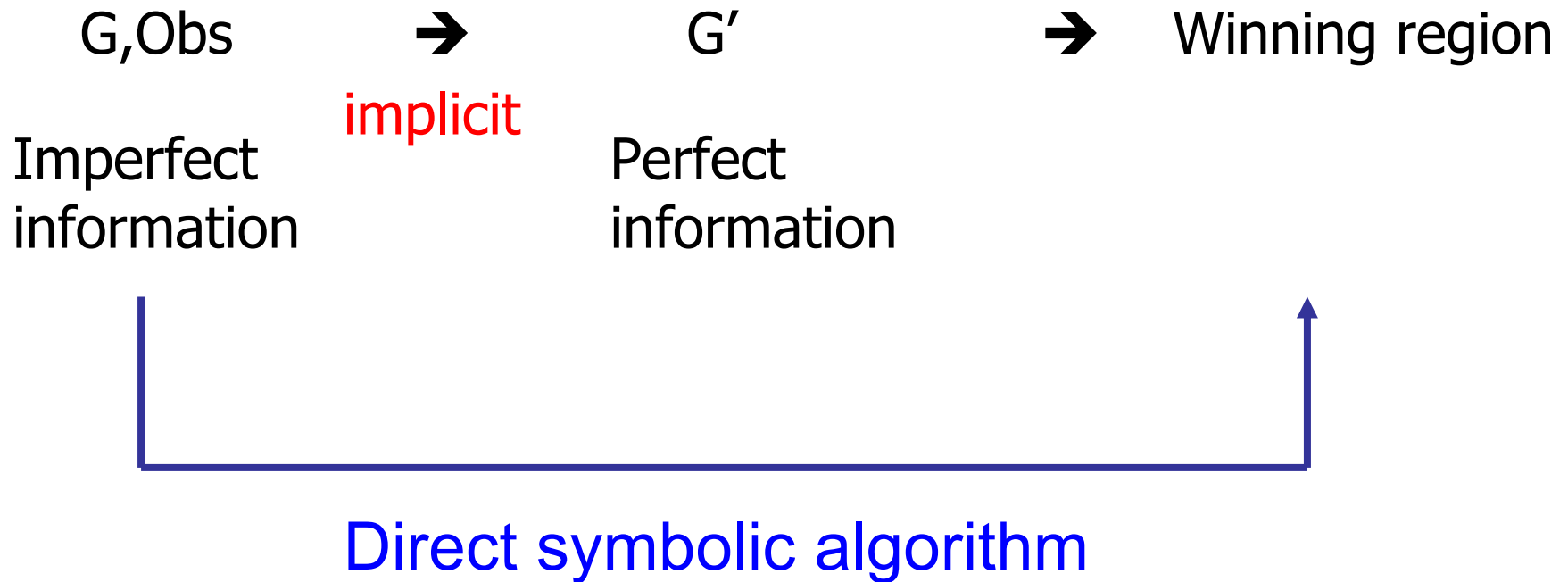
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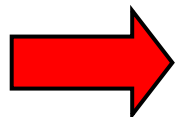
# Imperfect information



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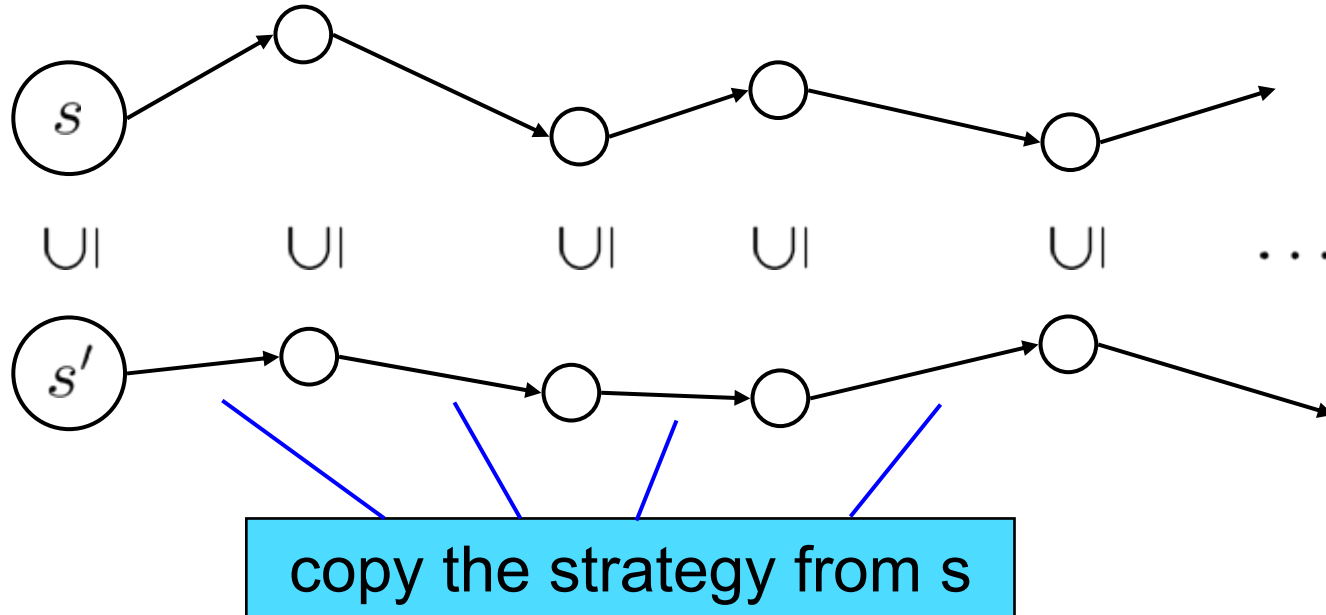


Intuition: if  $s$  is winning, then  $s' \subseteq s$  is also winning.

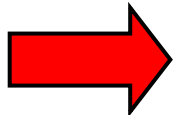


The set of winning cells is downward-closed.

# Symbolic algorithm



Intuition: if  $s$  is winning, then  $s' \subseteq s$  is also winning.

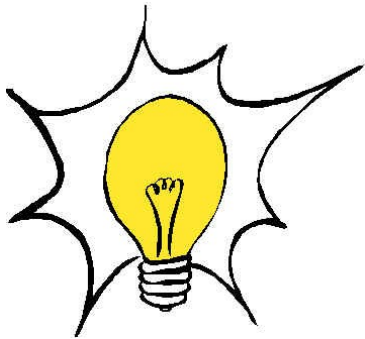


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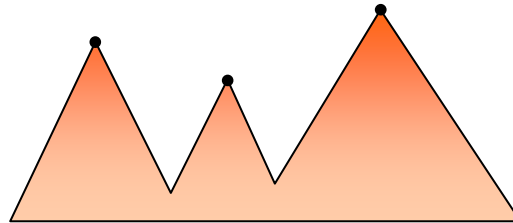


# Antichains

- Winning knowledge-sets are **downward-closed**
- Useful operations **preserve** downward-closedness



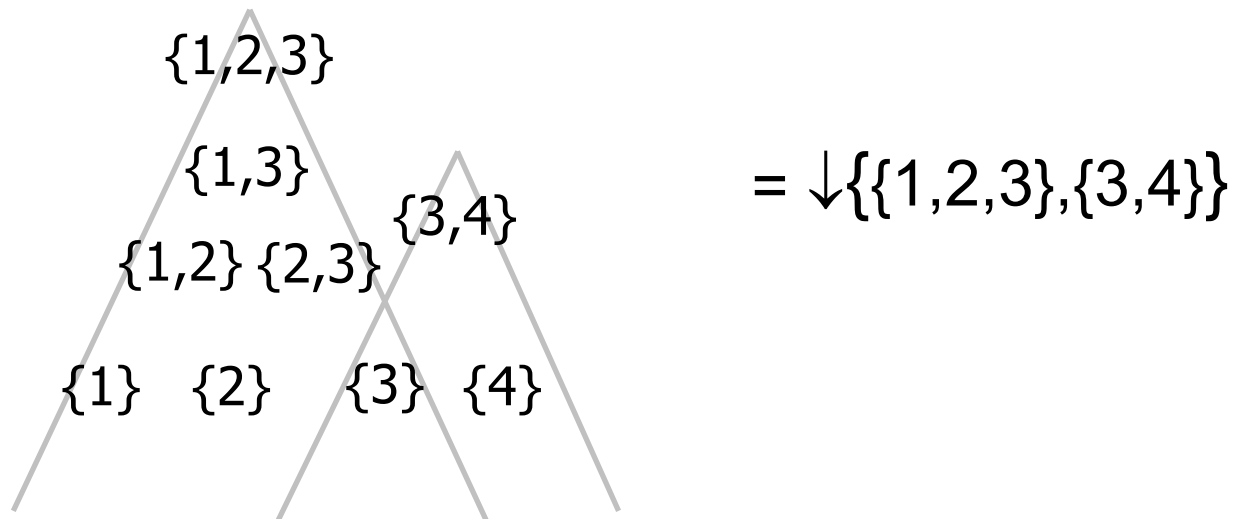
Compact representation using maximal elements → **Antichains**



# Antichains

The antichain  $\{\{1,2,3\},\{3,4\}\}$

represents the set of cells



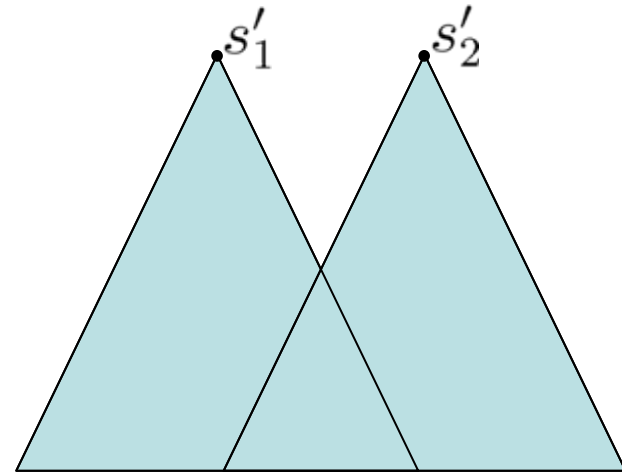
i.e. the **downward-closure** of  $\{\{1,2,3\},\{3,4\}\}$

# Structure of antichains

Membership

•  $s$

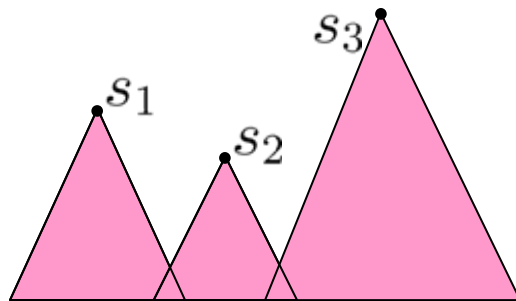
?  
∈



$$s \in \downarrow q' \text{ iff } \exists s' \in q' : s \subseteq s'$$

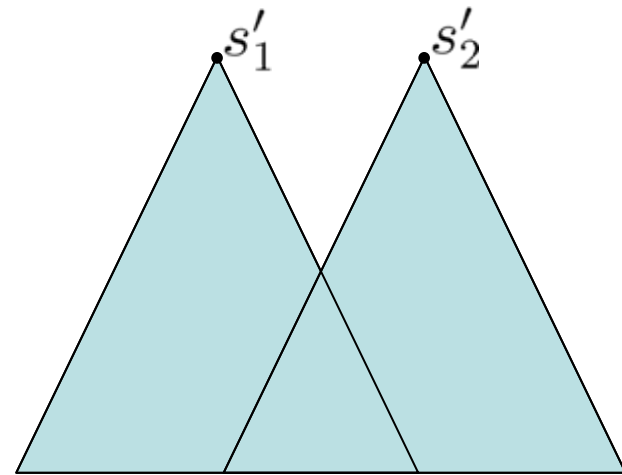
# Structure of antichains

Inclusion



$$q = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$$

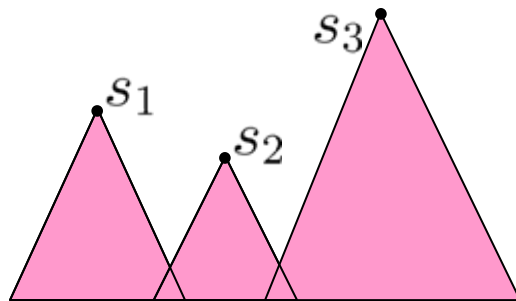
$\cup$



$$q' = \{s'_1, s'_2\}$$

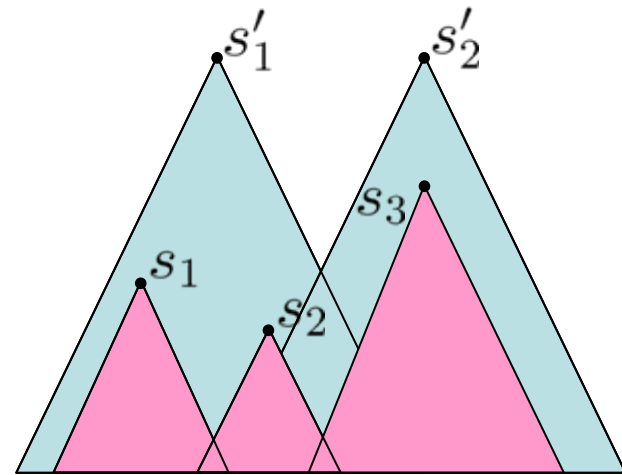
# Structure of antichains

## Inclusion



$$q = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$$

∪?



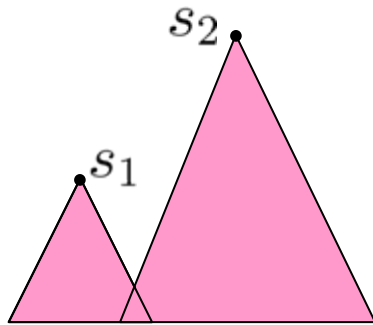
$$q' = \{s'_1, s'_2\}$$

$$q \sqsubseteq q' \text{ iff } \forall s \in q \cdot \exists s' \in q' : s \subseteq s'$$

$\sqsubseteq$  partial order on antichains

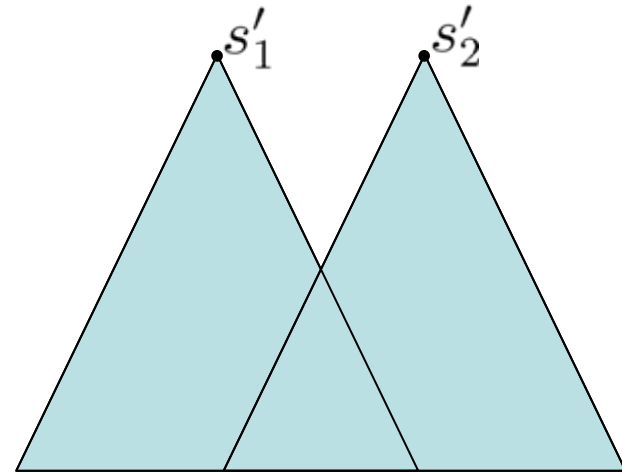
# Structure of antichains

Union



$$q = \{s_1, s_2\}$$

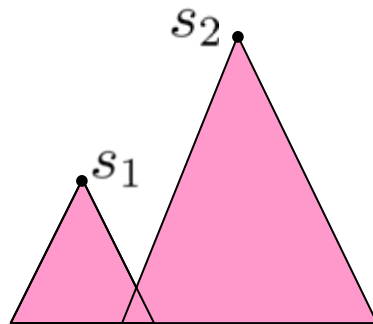
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$$q' = \{s'_1, s'_2\}$$

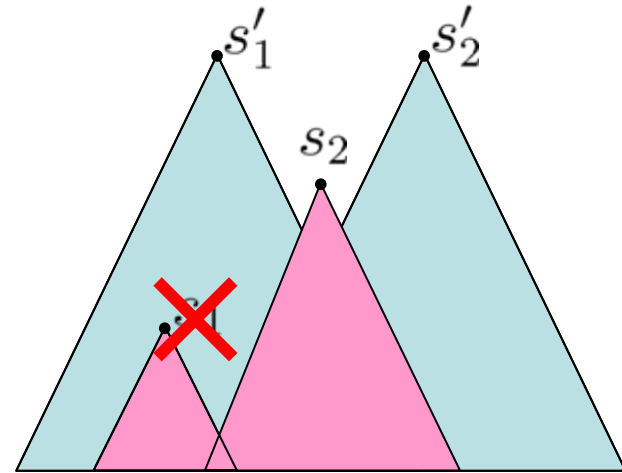
# Structure of antichains

Union



$$q = \{s_1, s_2\}$$

$\cup$



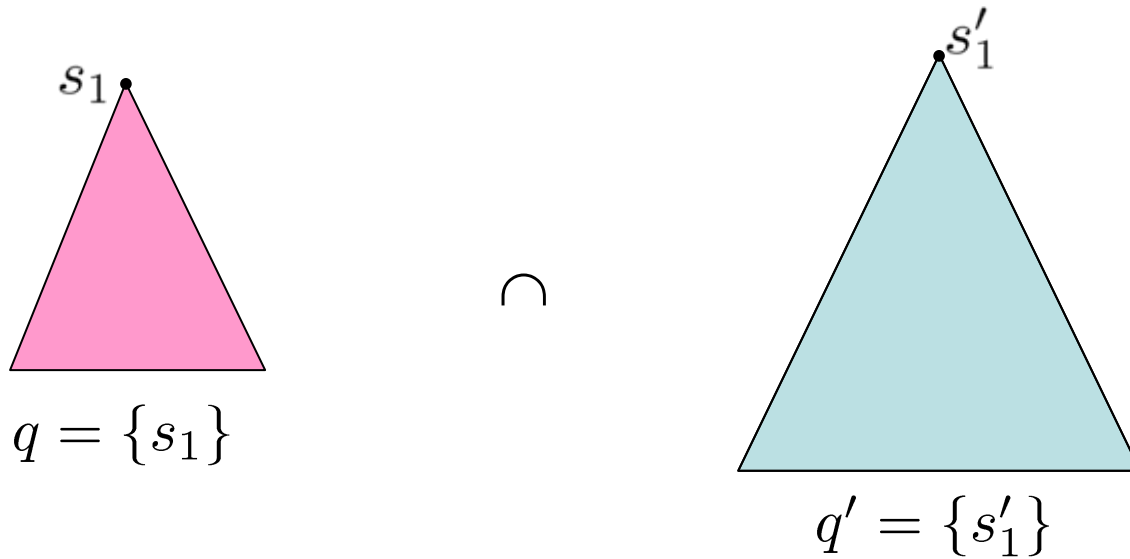
$$q' = \{s'_1, s'_2\}$$

$q \sqcup q' =$  maximal elements of  $q \cup q'$ .

Computing  $q_1 \sqcup q_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup q_n$  is polynomial.

# Structure of antichains

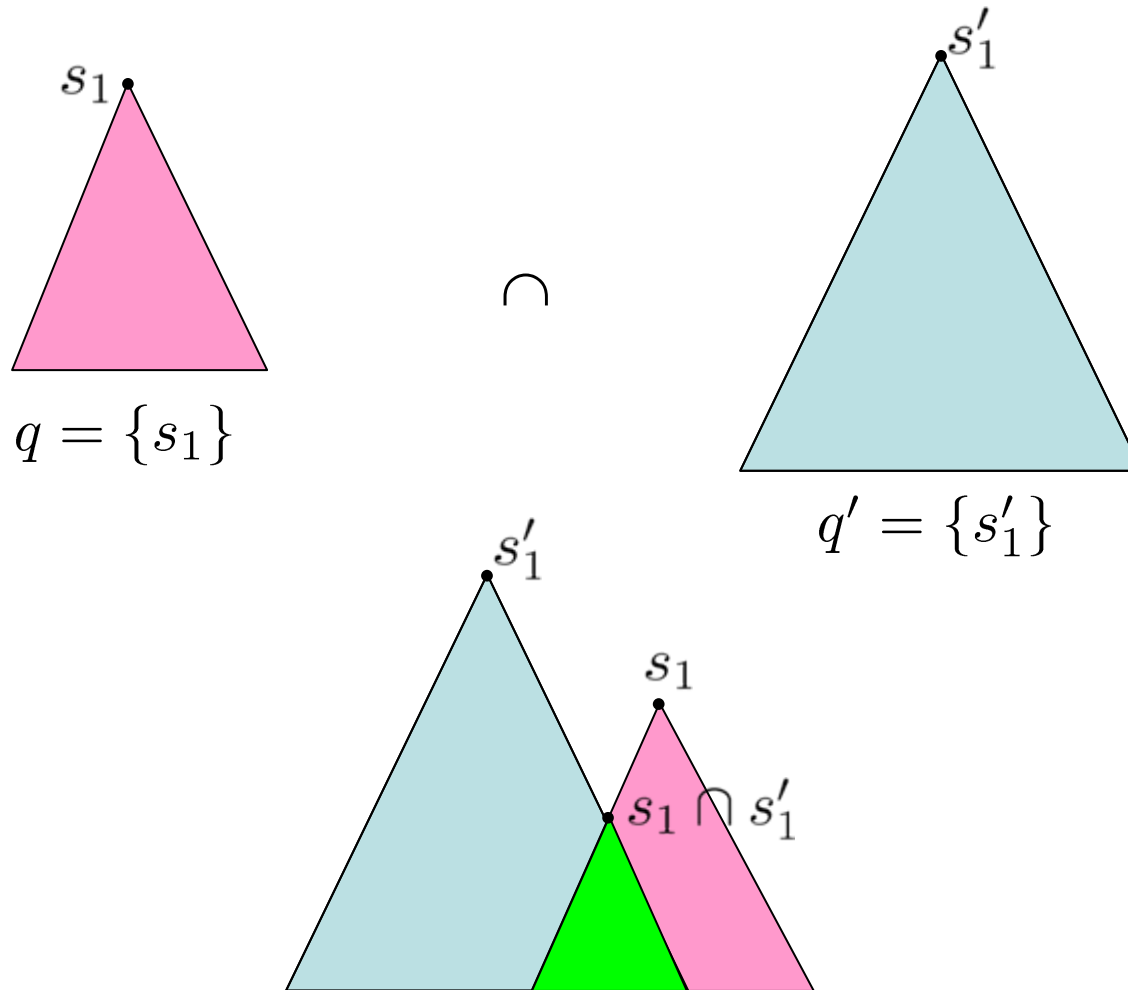
Intersection





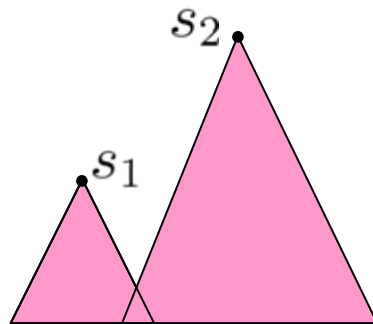
# Structure of antichains

## Intersection



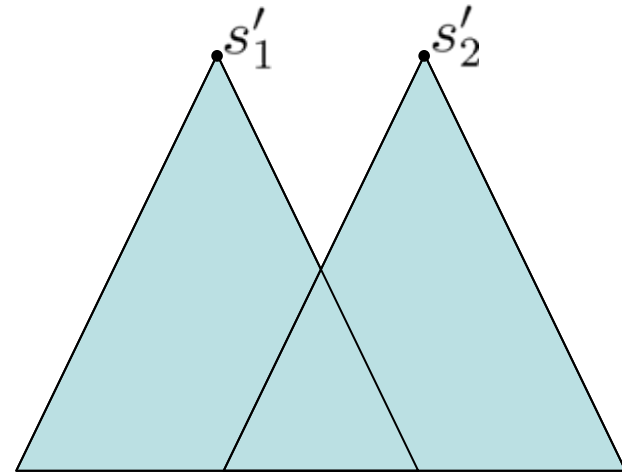
# Structure of antichains

## Intersection



$$q = \{s_1, s_2\}$$

$\cap$



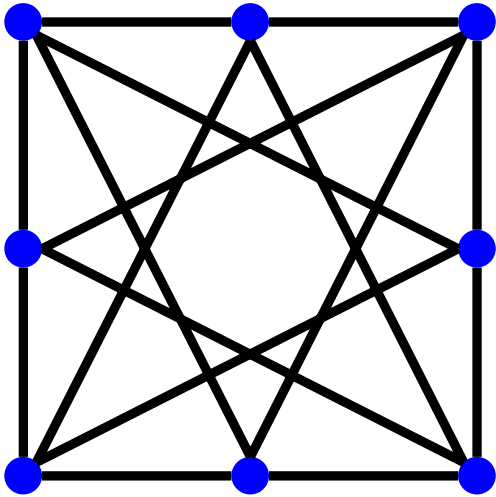
$$q' = \{s'_1, s'_2\}$$

$q \sqcap q' = \text{maximal elements of } \{s \cap s' \mid s \in q \wedge s' \in q'\}.$

Computing  $q_1 \sqcap q_2 \sqcap \dots \sqcap q_n$  is exponential !

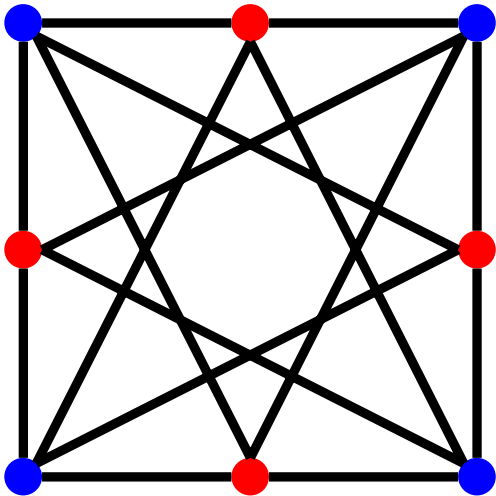
# Structure of antichains

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Independent set  
(pairwise non-adjacent vertices)

# Structure of antichains



**Independent set**  
(pairwise non-adjacent vertices)

Computing largest independent set is NP-hard

# Structure of antichains

Consider a graph  $G = (V, E)$

The sets of vertices that do not contain edge  $(v,w)$  are represented by the antichain  $\{V \setminus \{v\}, V \setminus \{w\}\}$

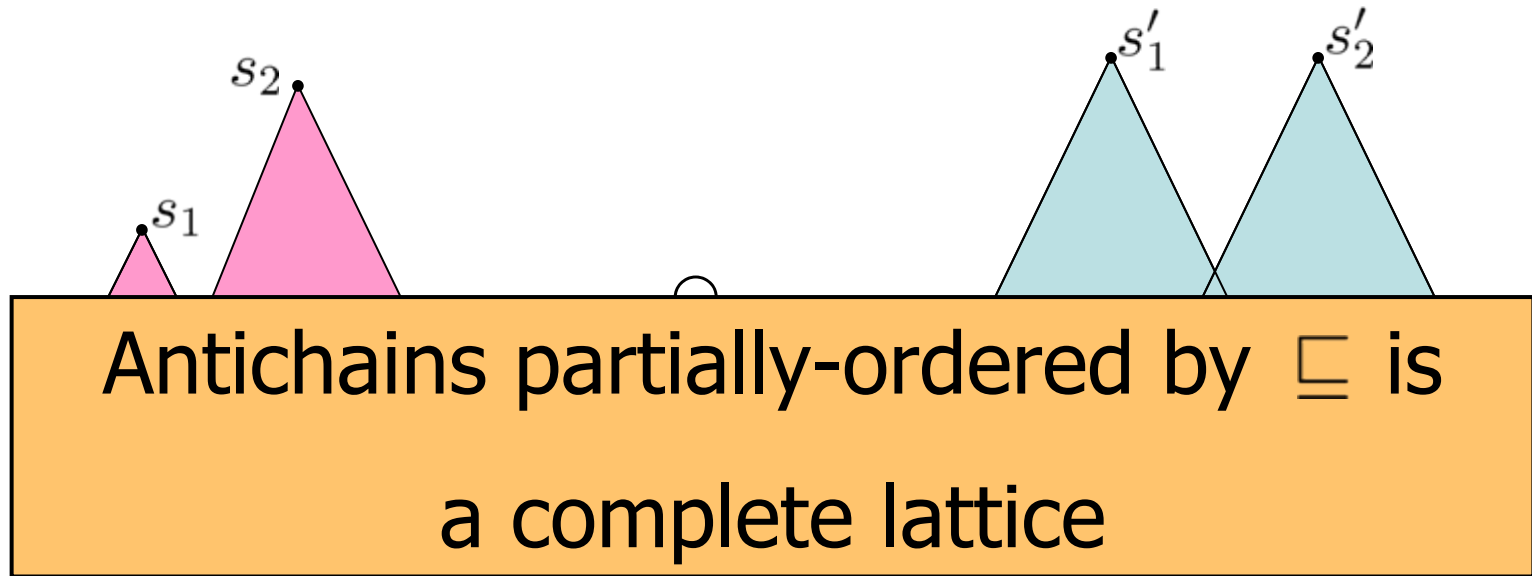
Hence, the maximal independent sets of  $G$  are defined by

$$\bigcap_{(v,w) \in E} \{V \setminus \{v\}, V \setminus \{w\}\}$$

Computing  $q_1 \cap q_2 \cap \dots \cap q_n$  is exponential (unless  $P=NP$ )

# Structure of antichains

Intersection



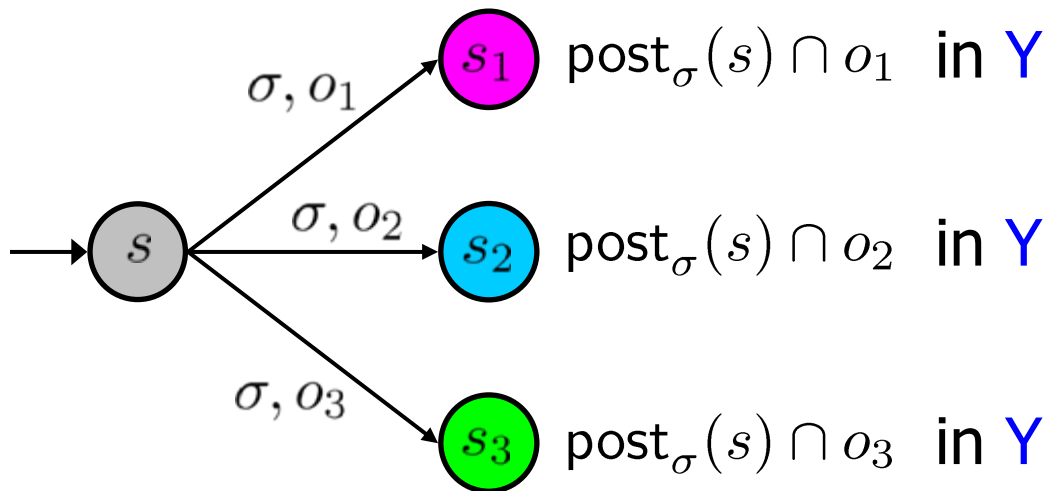
$q \sqcap q' = \text{maximal elements of } \{s \cap s' \mid s \in q \wedge s' \in q'\}.$

Computing  $q_1 \sqcap q_2 \sqcap \dots \sqcap q_n$  is exponential !

# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor operator

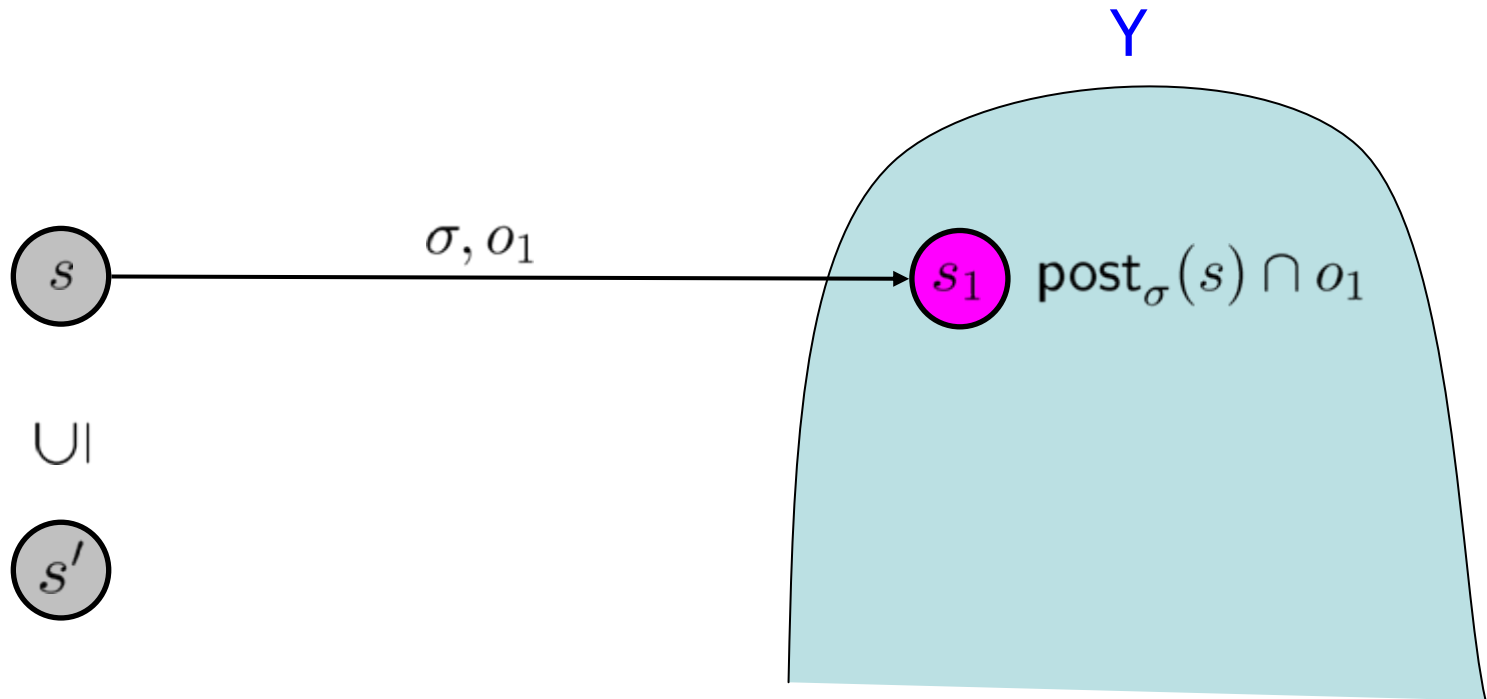
$\text{CPre}(Y) =$  cells  $s$  from which Player 1 has an action ( $\sigma$ )  
such that for all  $obs$  chosen by Player 2  
the cell  $\text{post}_\sigma(s) \cap obs$  is in  $Y$



# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor operator

If  $Y$  is downward-closed, then ...

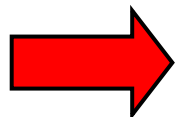
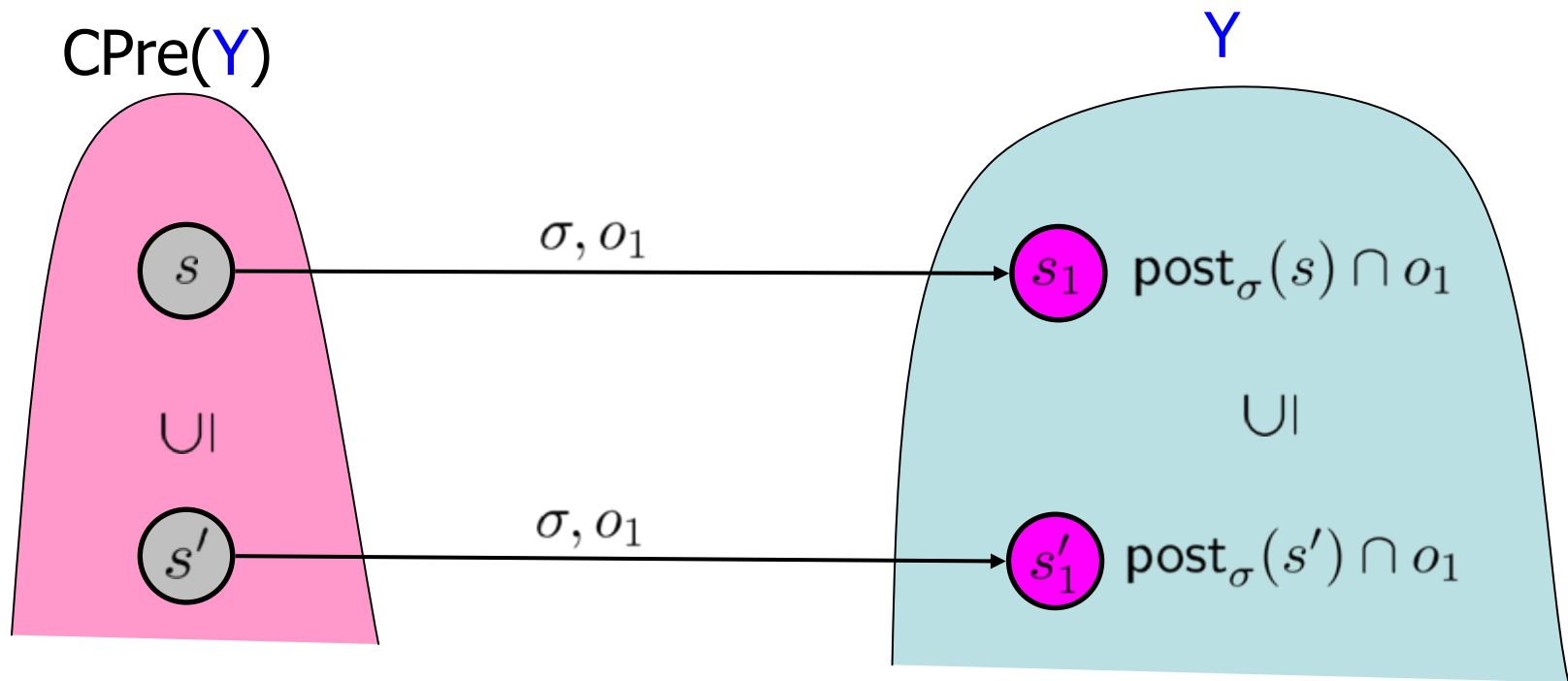




# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor operator

If  $Y$  is downward-closed, then  $CPre(Y)$  is downward-closed.

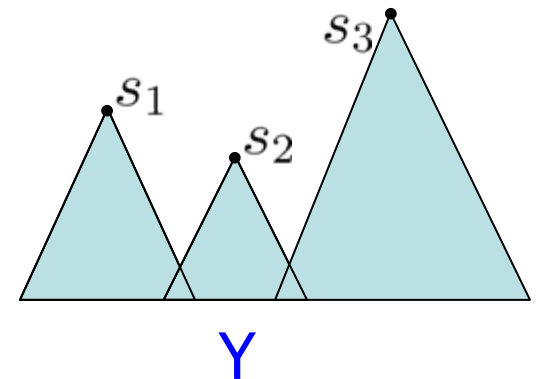
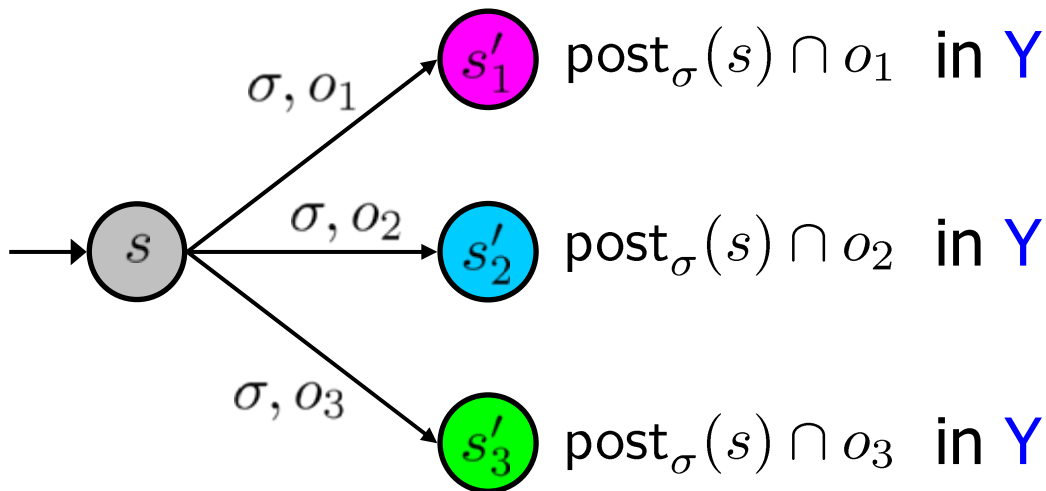


$Cpre()$  preserves downward-closedness.

# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor operator

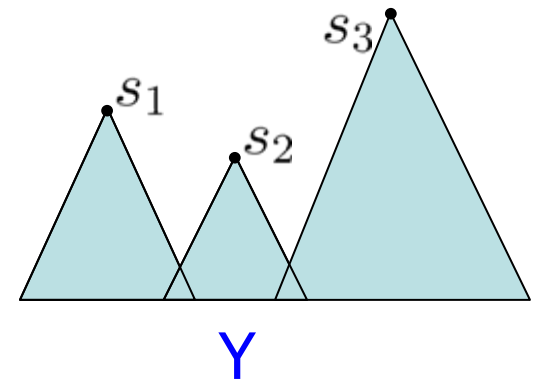
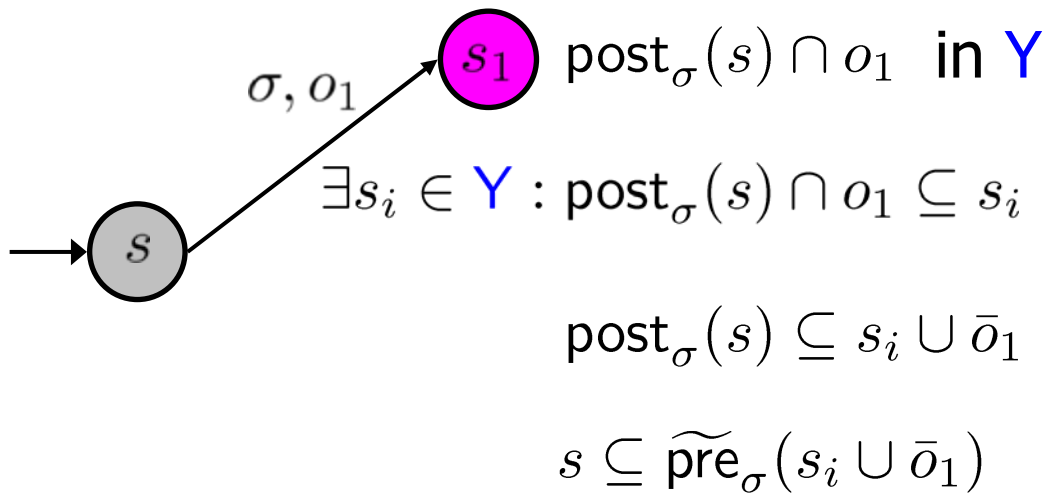
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# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor operator

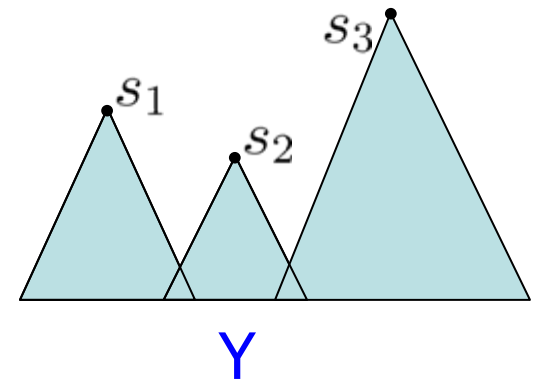
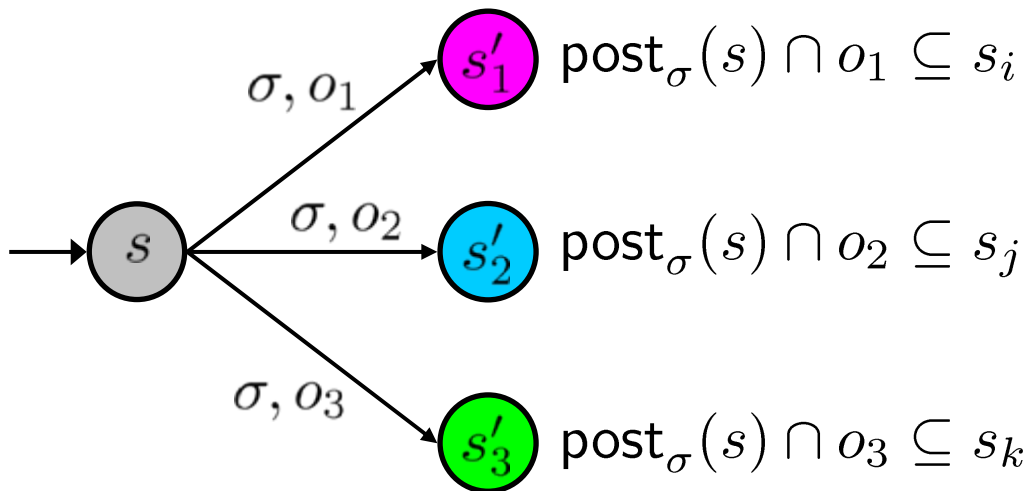
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# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor operator

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# Symbolic algorithm

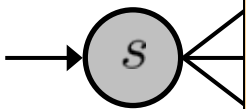
Controllable predecessor operator

$CPre(Y)$  = cells  $s$  from which Player 1 has an action ( $\sigma$ )  
such that for all  $obs$  chosen by Player 2  
the cell  $post_\sigma(s) \cap obs$  is in  $Y$

- combinatorially **hard** to compute

$$CPre(Y) = \bigsqcup_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \bigcap_{o \in Obs} \bigsqcup_{s' \in Y} \{\widetilde{pre}_\sigma(s' \cup \bar{o})\}$$

- implemented using **BDDs**

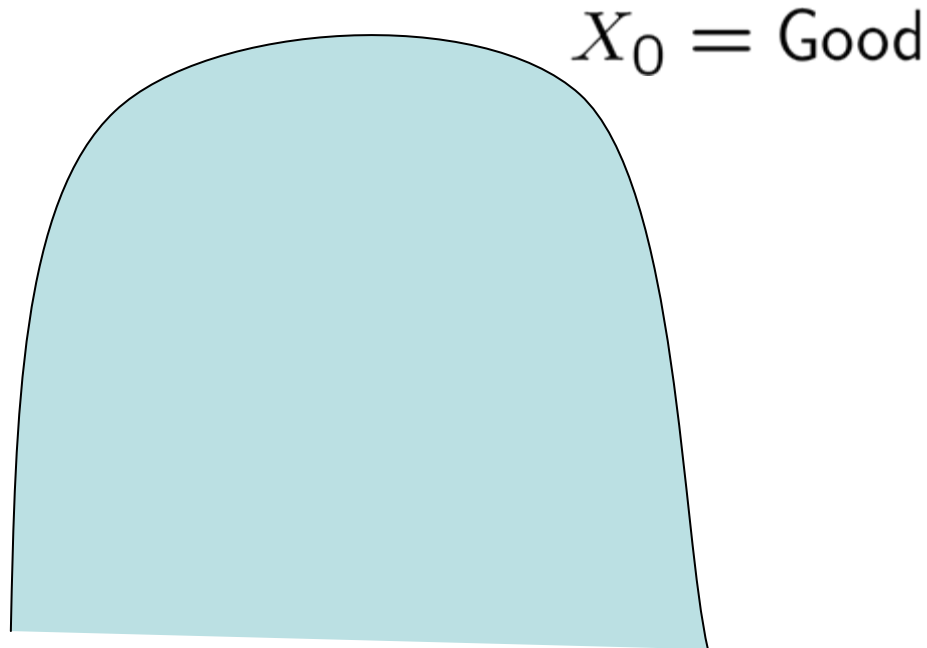


# Symbolic algorithm

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

$$\text{Good} = \{s \mid s \cap \text{Bad} = \emptyset\}$$

Good is downward-closed !

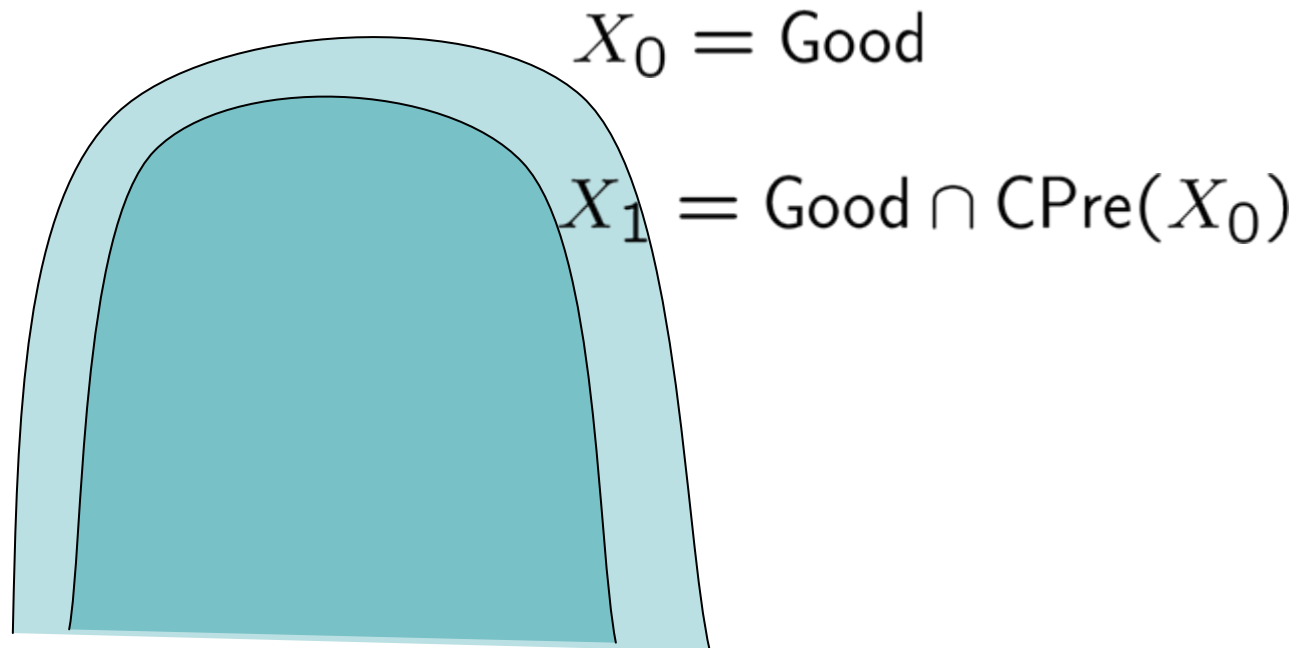


# Symbolic algorithm

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

Good =  $\{s \mid s \cap \text{Bad} = \emptyset\}$       Good is downward-closed !

cells winning in 1 step:  $\text{Good} \cap \text{CPre}(\text{Good})$

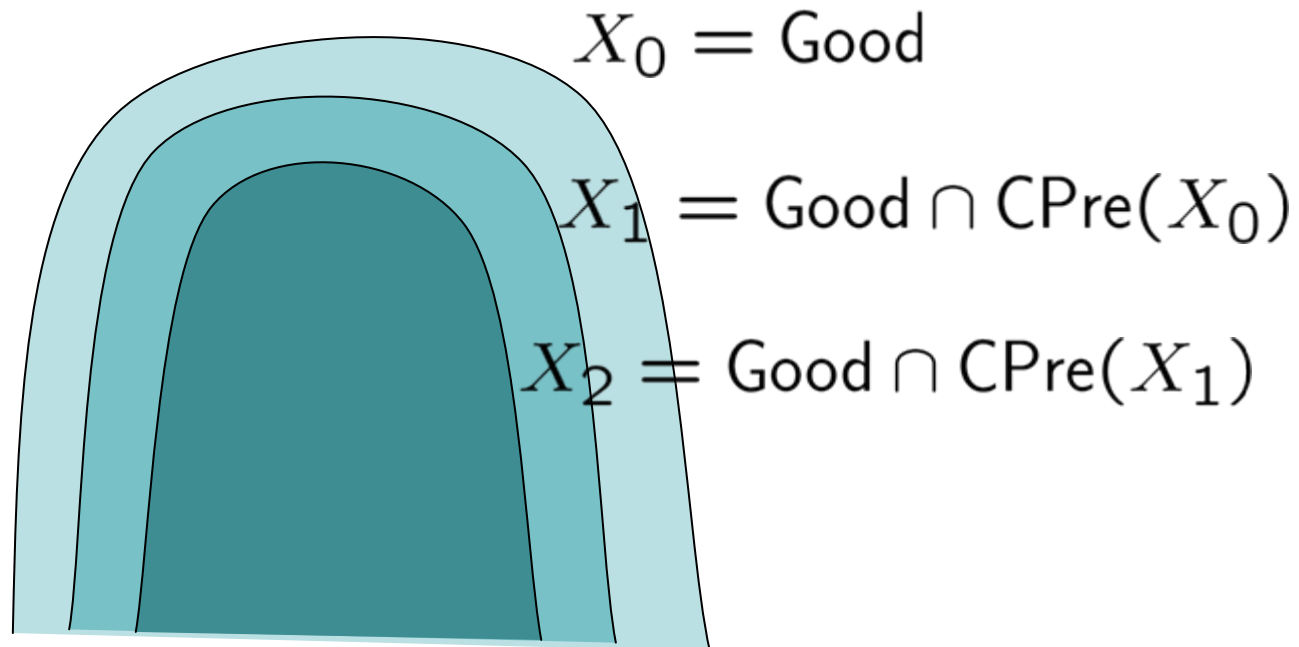


# Symbolic algorithm

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

$\text{Good} = \{s \mid s \cap \text{Bad} = \emptyset\}$       Good is downward-closed !

cells winning in 2 steps:  $\text{Good} \cap \text{CPre}(\text{Good}) \cap \text{CPre}(X_1)$



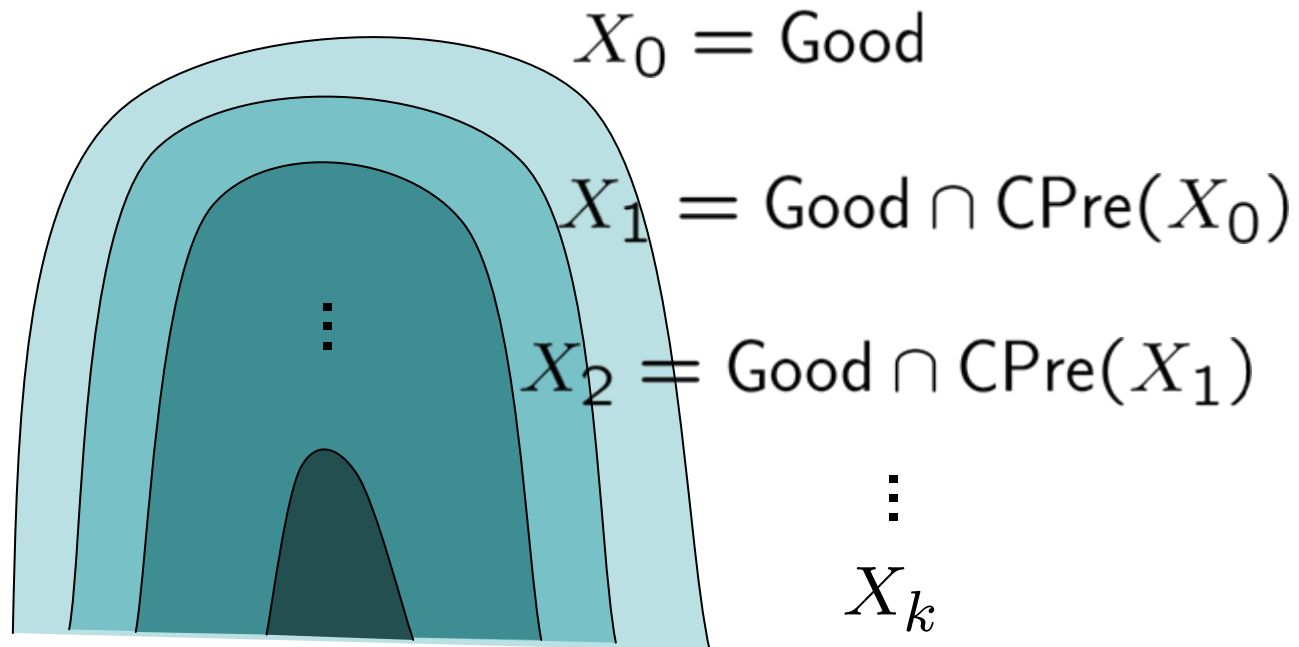


# Symbolic algorithm

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

Good =  $\{s \mid s \cap \text{Bad} = \emptyset\}$       Good is downward-closed !

cells winning in k steps:  $\nu X \cdot \text{Good} \cap \text{CPre}(X)$



# Symbolic algorithm

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

Good =  $\{s \mid s \cap \text{Bad} = \emptyset\}$       Good is downward-closed !

cells winning in k steps:  $\nu X \cdot \text{Good} \cap \text{CPre}(X)$

Fixpoint after at most  $O(2^n)$  iterations

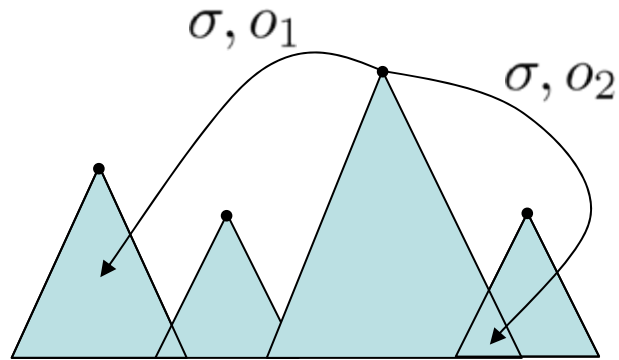
Computing CPre() is  $O(2^{|\text{obs}|})$

...but exponentially more succinct sets !

# Strategy construction

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

From every winning cell, Player 1 has an action to stay in the set of winning cells

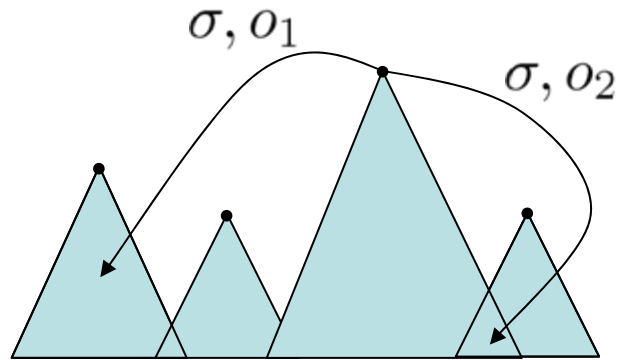


Winning cells

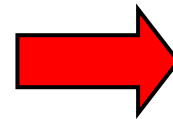
# Strategy construction

Safety game: avoid **Bad**

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Winning cells

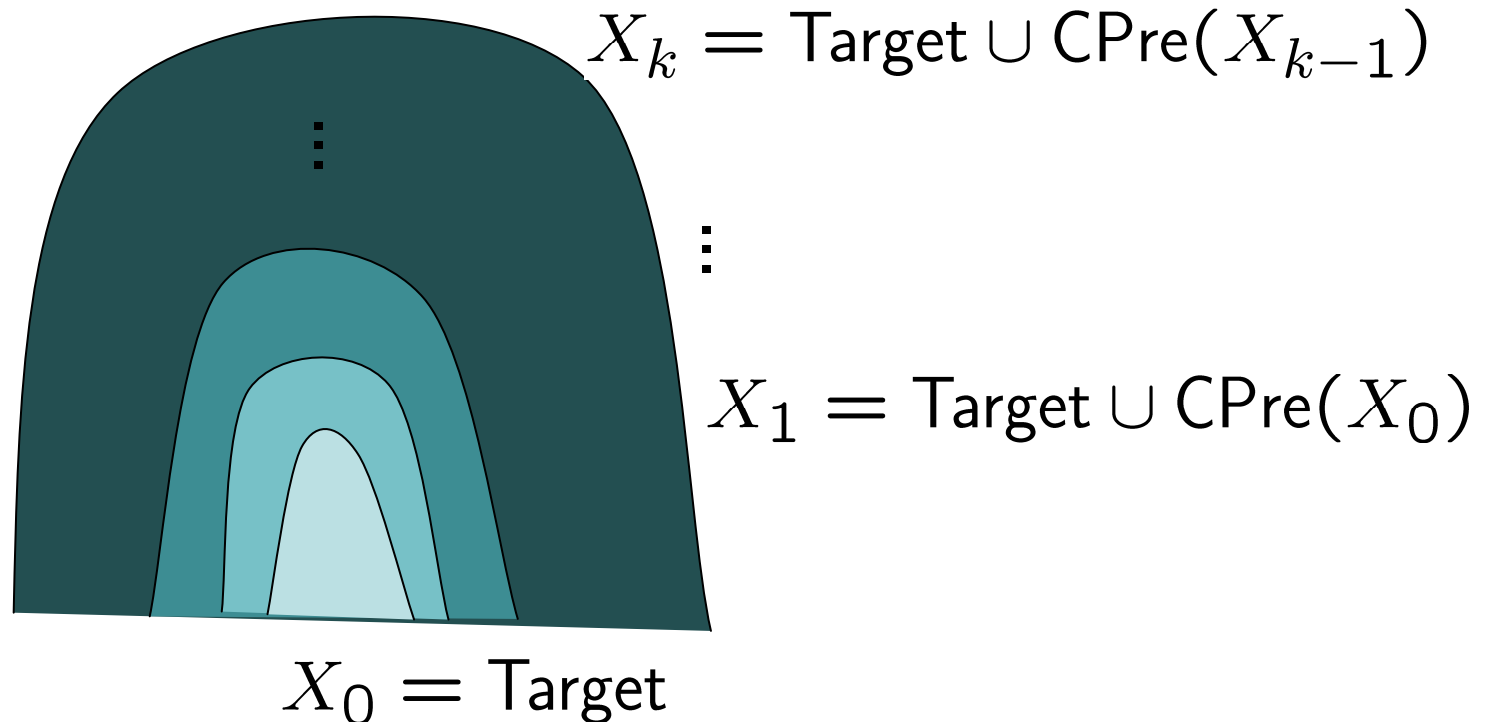


Strategy automaton  
(Moore machine)

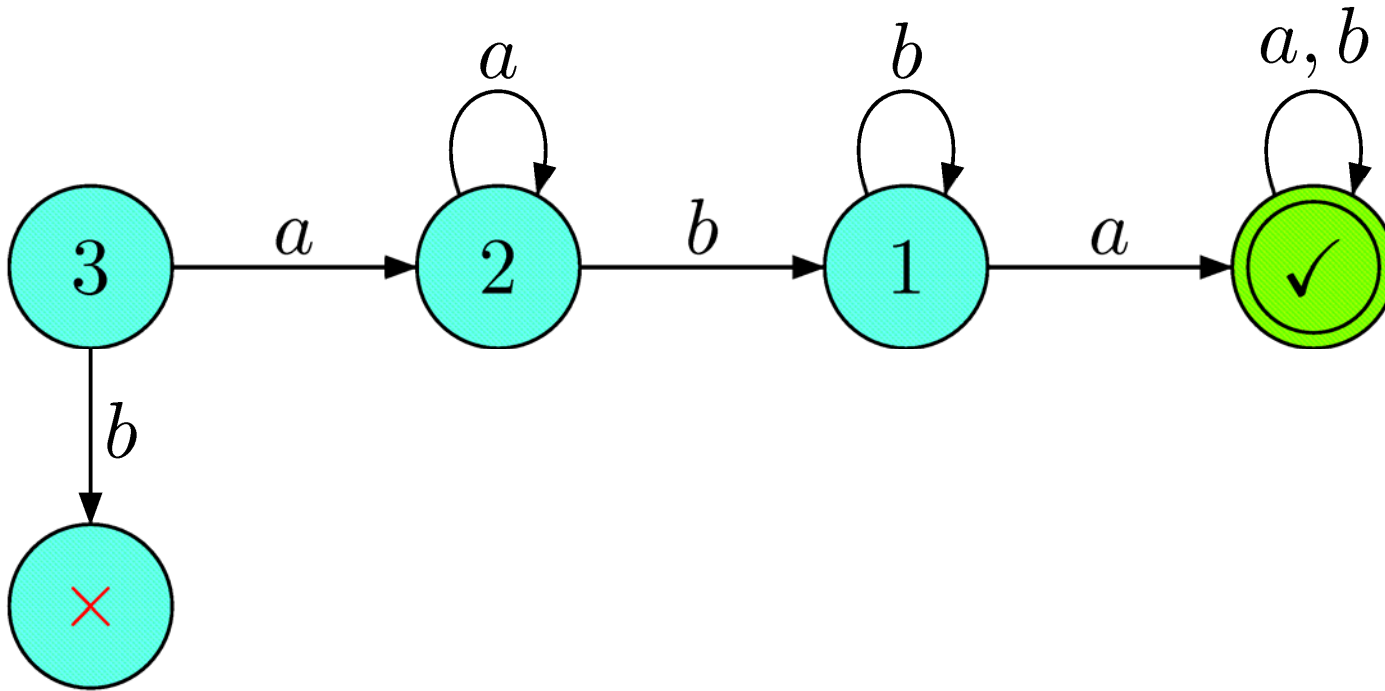
# Symbolic algorithm

Reachability game: reach Target

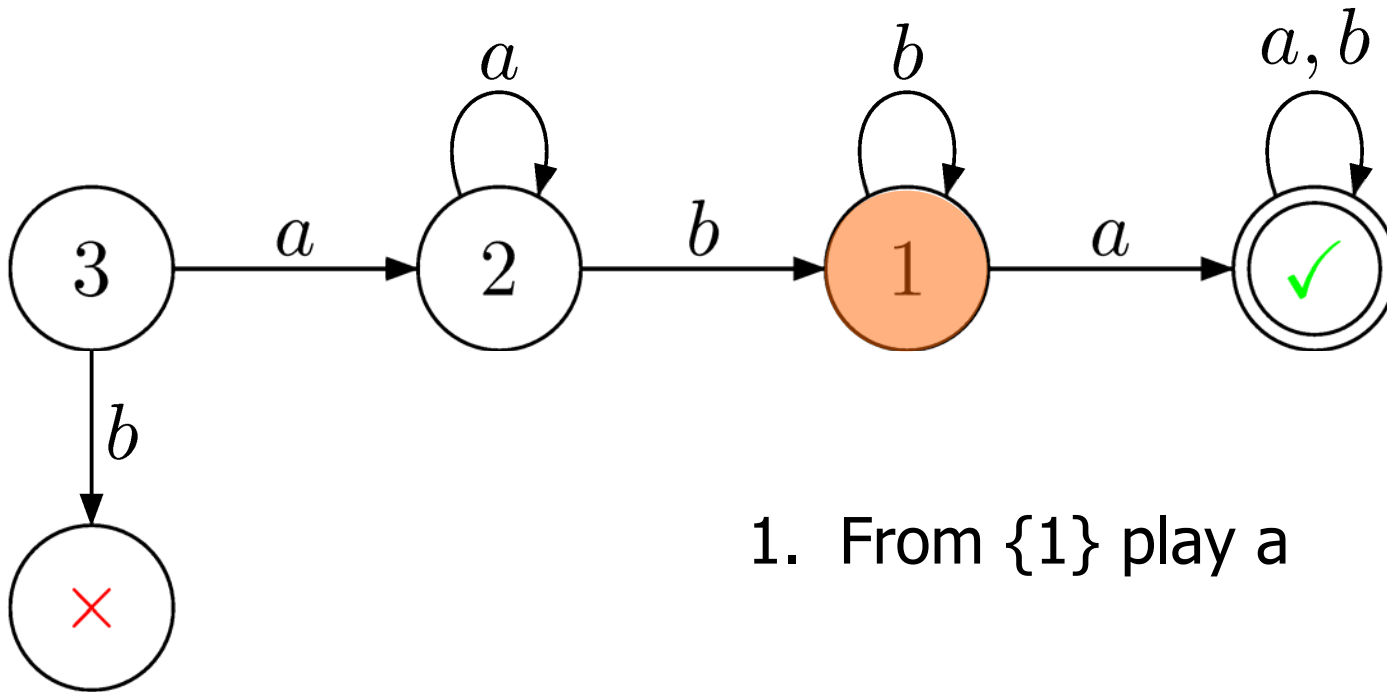
cells winning in k steps:  $\mu X \cdot \text{Target} \cup \text{CPre}(X)$



# Reachability

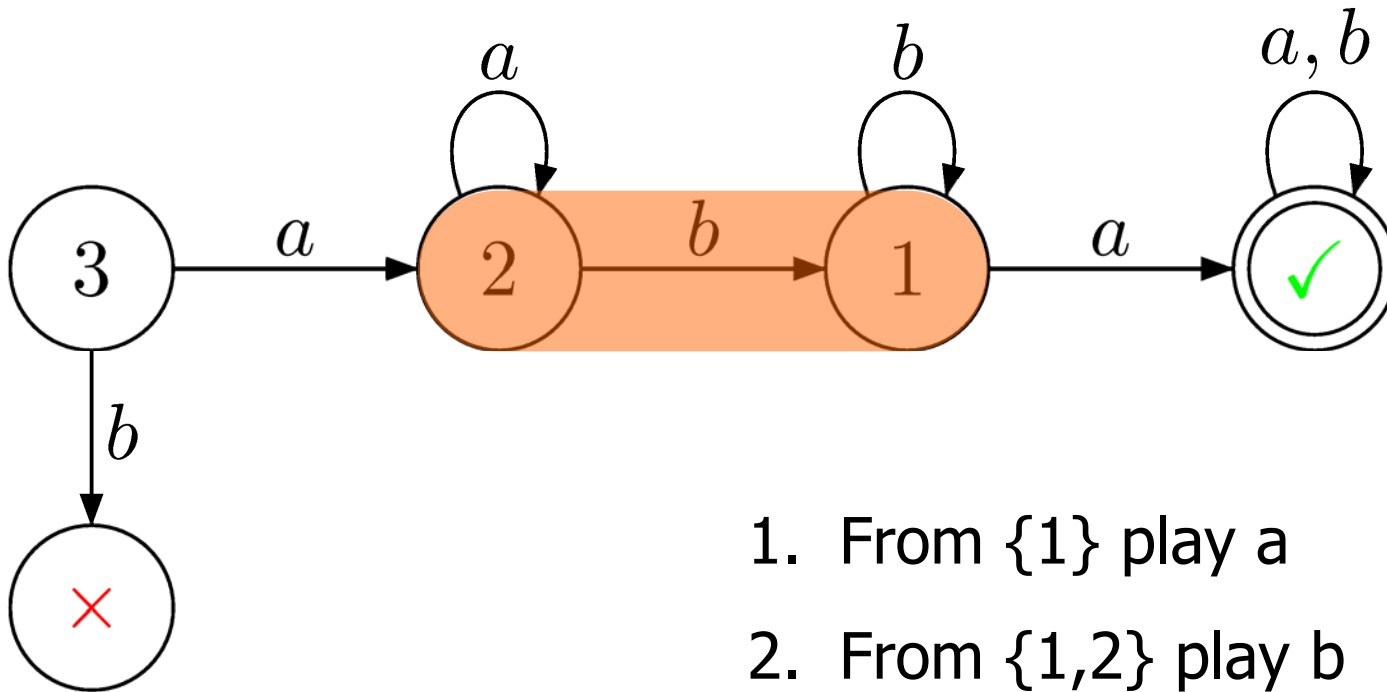


# Reachability



1. From  $\{1\}$  play  $a$

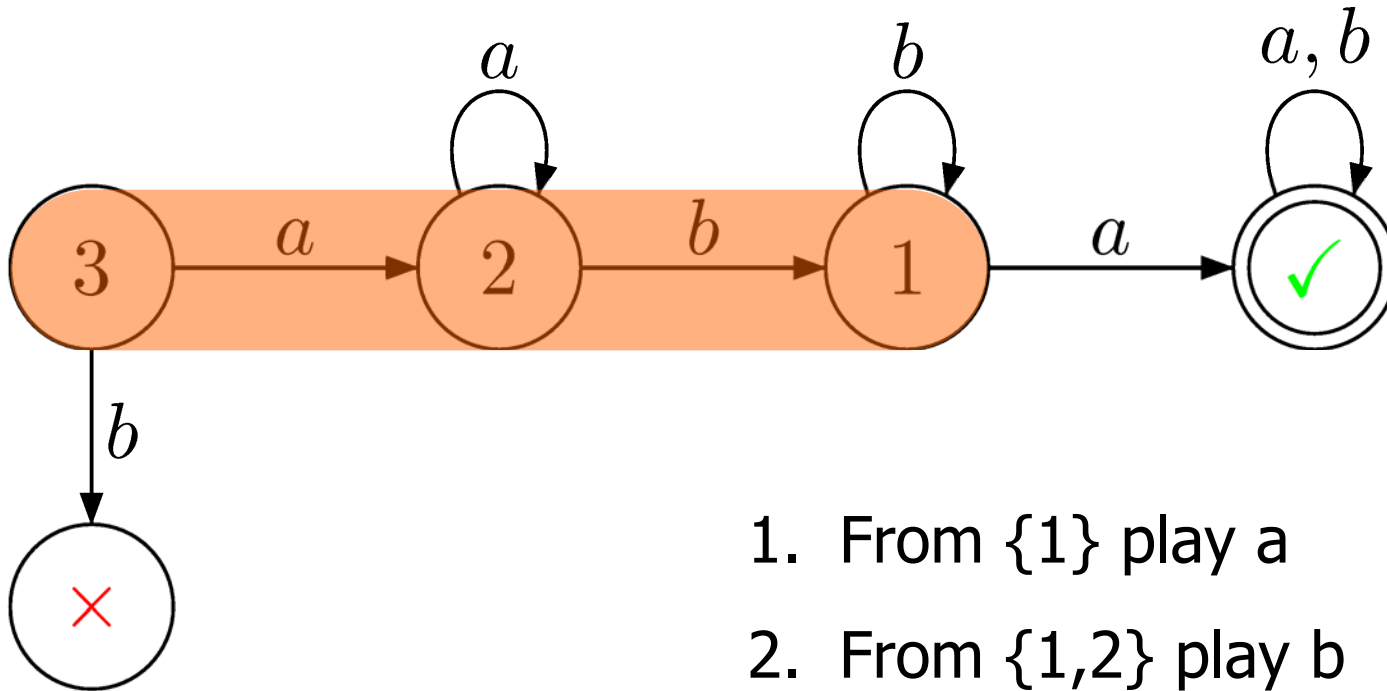
# Reachability



1. From  $\{1\}$  play  $a$
2. From  $\{1,2\}$  play  $b$

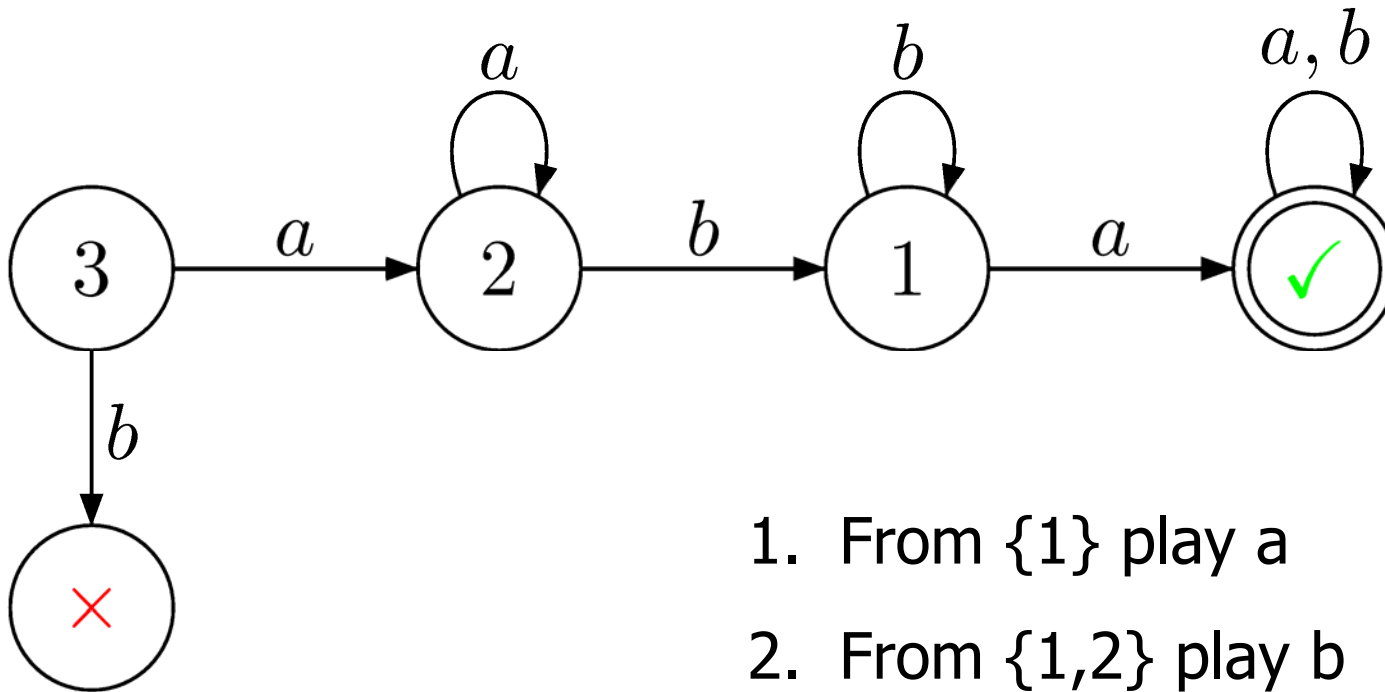


# Reachability



1. From  $\{1\}$  play  $a$
2. From  $\{1,2\}$  play  $b$
3. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play  $a$

# Reachability

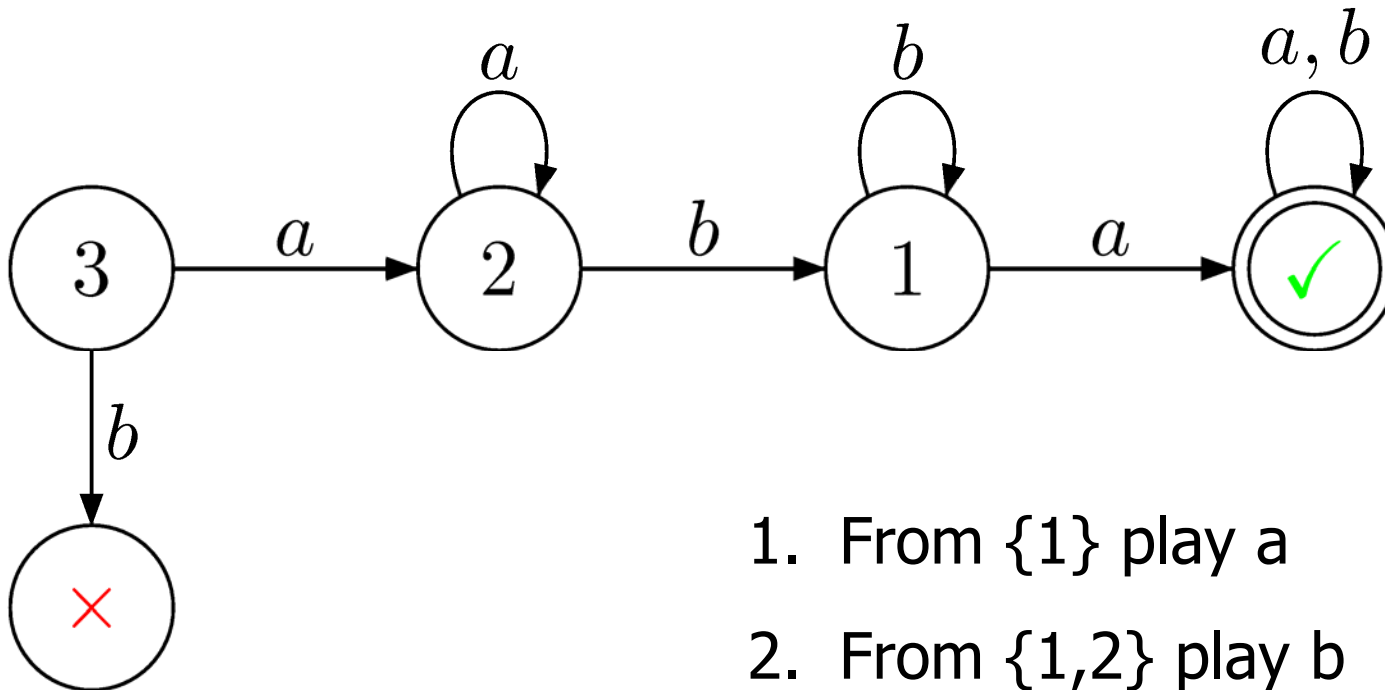


1. From  $\{1\}$  play a
2. From  $\{1,2\}$  play b
3. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play a

Fixpoint of winning cells:  $\{\{1,2,3\}\}$

Winning strategy ??

# Reachability

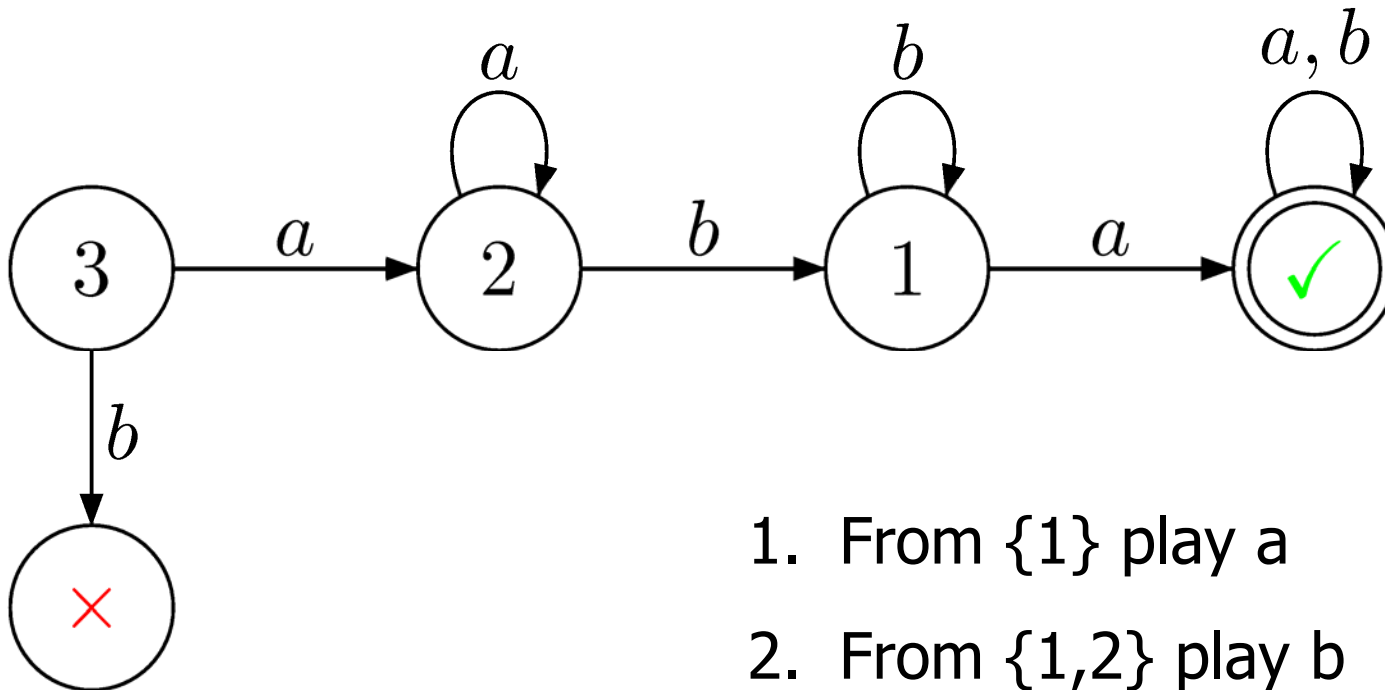


1. From  $\{1\}$  play a
2. From  $\{1,2\}$  play b
3. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play a

Fixpoint of winning (cell, action):  $\{\{1,2,3\}_a, \{1,2\}_b\}$

Winning strategy ??

# Reachability



1. From  $\{1\}$  play a
2. From  $\{1,2\}$  play b
3. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play a

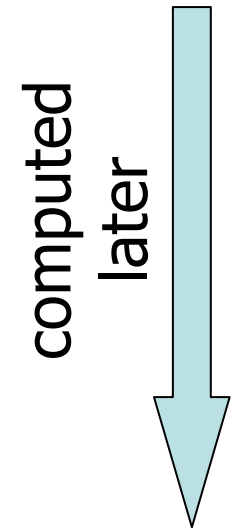
Winning strategy

Current knowledge  $K$ : select earliest (**cell,action**)

such that  $K \subseteq$  **cell**, play **action**

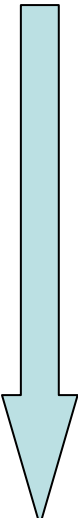
# Strategy simplification #1

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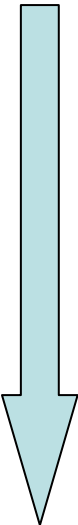
1. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play a
2. From ... play ...
3. From ... play ...
4. From ... play ...
5. From  $\{2\}$  play b

# Strategy simplification #1

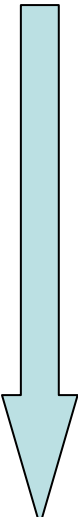
- computed  
later
- 
1. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play a
  2. From ... play ...
  3. From ... play ...
  4. From ... play ...
  5. ~~From  $\{2\}$  play b~~ Not necessary !

Rule 1: delete subsumed pairs computed later

# Strategy simplification #2

- computed  
later
- 
1. From  $\{1,2\}$  play a
  2. From  $\{3,4\}$  play ...
  3. From  $\{1,3\}$  play a
  4. From  $\{3,5\}$  play ...
  5. From  $\{1,2,3\}$  play a

# Strategy simplification #2

- computed  
later
- 
1. ~~From {1,2} play a~~
  2. From {3,4} play ...
  3. From {1,3} play a
  4. From {3,5} play ...
  5. From {1,2,3} play a

Not necessary !

Rule 2: delete strongly-subsumed pairs



# Alpaga

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First prototype for solving parity games of imperfect information

- Use antichains as compact representation of winning sets of positions
- Compute Controllable Predecessor with BDDs
- Publish Reachability/Safety attractor moves to compose the strategy (earlier published move sticks)
- Strategy simplification



# Alpaga

First prototype for solving parity games of imperfect information

- Implemented in Python + CUDD
- $\leq 1000$  LoC
- Solves 50 states, 28 observations, 3 priorities (explicit game graph)

<http://www.antichains.be/alpaga>



# Some experiments

	Size	Obs	Priorities	Time (s)
Game1	4	4	Reach.	.1
Game2	3	2	Reach.	.1
Game3	6	3	3	.1
Game4	8	5	5	1.4
Game5	8	5	7	9.4
Game6	11	9	10	50.7
Game7	11	8	10	579.0
Locking	22	14	Safety	.6
Mutex	50	28	3	57.7

<http://www.antichains.be/alpaga>



# Alpaga

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First prototype for solving parity games of imperfect information

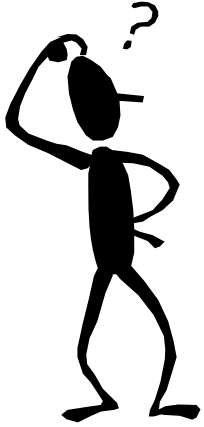
## Outlook

- Symbolic game graph
- Compact representation of strategies
- Almost-sure winning
- Relaxing visibility



# Thank you !

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## Questions ?



<http://www.antichains.be/alpaga>

# References

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- [Reif84] J. H. Reif. The Complexity of Two-Player Games of Incomplete Information. *J. Comput. Syst. Sci.* 29(2): 274-301, 1984
- [CSL'06] K. Chatterjee, L. Doyen, T. A. Henzinger, and J.-F. Raskin. Algorithms for Omega-regular Games of Incomplete Information. *Proc. of CSL, LNCS 4207*, Springer, 2006, pp. 287-302
- [Concur'08] D. Berwanger, K. Chatterjee, L. Doyen, T. A. Henzinger, and S. Raje. Strategy Construction for Parity Games with Imperfect Information. *Proc. of Concur, LNCS 5201*, Springer, 2008, pp. 325-339